

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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honors  
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Tyrene Willingham

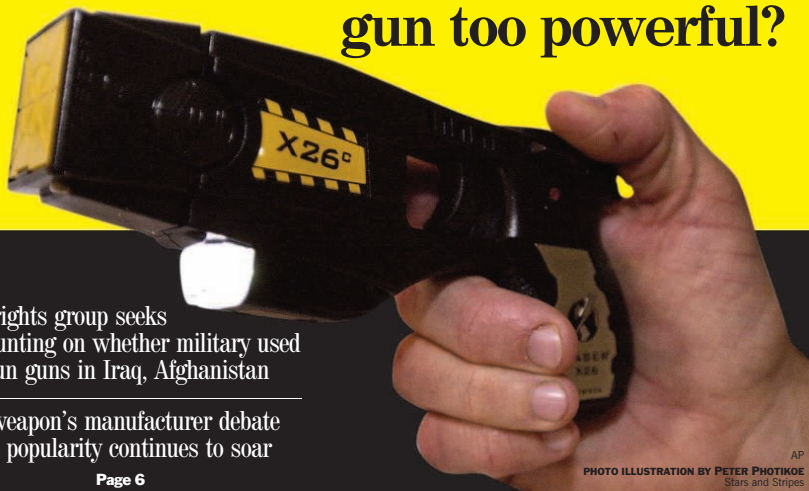
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### Is this 'nonlethal' gun too powerful?



Human rights group seeks  
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Taser stun guns in Iraq, Afghanistan

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safety as popularity continues to soar

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AP  
PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY PETER PHOTIKOE  
Stars and Stripes

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### World

**Milosevic war-crimes trial:** A former Russian prime minister testified as a defense witness at Slobodan Milosevic's war-crimes trial Tuesday, saying the former Yugoslav president tried to avoid the conflict in Kosovo.

Yevgeny Primakov was in office during the 1998-1999 war in the southern Serbian province when Milosevic sent troops to crack down on separatist ethnic Albanians. Before the bombing, "I observed that both you personally and Belgrade were trying to rein in the forces that could be drawn into that circle of violence," Primakov told Milosevic from the stand at the U.N. tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

**Democracy in Hong Kong:** The top U.S. diplomat in Hong Kong said Tuesday the government should respect people's wishes on the issue of holding a referendum on direct elections in this partially democratic Chinese territory.

Pro-democracy figures tried to push a legislative motion backing the referendum on Monday, but it was defeated by pro-government lawmakers who hold a majority in the legislature.

Beijing had earlier warned lawmakers against supporting the referendum, which it sees as a challenge to China's constitutional system.

**Ukraine election turmoil:** Supporters of Ukraine's opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko broke off talks Tuesday with Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich, who was declared the winner of the presidential election.

Yushchenko's campaign chief, Oleksandr Zinchenko, accused authorities of trying to drag out the talks, which began last week thanks to the European Union's mediation.

Zinchenko spoke after pro-government lawmakers blocked the opposition's attempt to vote no-confidence in Yanukovich's Cabinet.

The parliament then gave a tentative approval to a resolution canceling a previous no-binding decision to declare official results of the Nov. 21 runoff invalid.

**Jailed terrorist:** The terrorist known as Carlos the Jackal is again refusing food to protest conditions in a Paris prison, where he is serving a life sentence, one of his lawyers said Tuesday.

The Venezuelan, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, stopped eating last Wednesday and said he will continue the strike "as long as necessary," attorney Isabelle Coutant Peyre said by telephone.

She said he is protesting being kept in isolation, "provocative and unjustifiable" body and cell searches, and authorities' refusal to let him access his prison bank account for food and other necessities.

**Pakistan's presidency:** Pakistan's military president, under fire for reneging on promises to restore full democracy, will keep his dual role as army chief and head of state under legislation enacted Tuesday by close supporters while the general was on a trip to Latin America and Washington.

There was no doubt that the legislation would be signed, but the timing appeared to indicate that President Gen. Pervez Musharraf did not want to put his name on the controversial bill, which has drawn heavy criticism from the opposition.

Instead, it was signed into law by Mohammed Mian Soomro, who as chairman of the



Musharraf



**Cleric's terrorism trial:** Militant Muslim cleric Abu Bakar Bashir, center, is escorted by security officers and his defense lawyer during a break in his trial at court in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Tuesday. Prosecutors in the trial of the alleged terror chief suffered a setback Tuesday, when a key witness failed to link the radical cleric to any crimes. Bashir, 66, is accused of heading the al-Qaida-linked terror group Jemaah Islamiyah, and of inciting his followers to take part in the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people and the JW Marriott Hotel attack in Jakarta last year, which left 12 dead. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

Senate is acting president while Musharraf is away.

**Afghan opium crops:** Afghan President Hamid Karzai has lodged a protest with British and U.S. officials after a mystery aircraft sprayed herbicide on opium crops without authorization, his spokesmen said Tuesday.

Villagers in eastern Nangarhar province complained two weeks ago that a plane had dusted their fields and villages with a chemical that killed their crops and made them sick.

The government ordered an investigation, which confirmed that a substance had been sprayed in two districts, probably from the air, spokesman Javed Ludin said, and prompted a sharp rebuke from the president.

### States

**Slain hunters:** A Hmong immigrant accused of fatally shooting six deer hunters in the woods of northern Wisconsin appeared in a makeshift courtroom Tuesday, a day after charges were filed against him.

Chai Vang, 36, of St. Paul, Minn., was charged with six counts of murder, each carrying a life prison term, and two counts of attempted murder. Wisconsin does not have a death penalty.

Funerals for two victims were held Monday.

**Fla. wrestling death:** Lionel Tate, the Florida youth once sentenced to life in prison for the death of a playmate, can return to his mother's home while he serves probation, a judge ruled Monday.

Tate, 17, the youngest person in modern U.S. history to be sentenced to life in prison, was freed earlier this year, but then was accused of violating probation in September.

He was moved to another home, but that family requested that he be removed because the frequent visits by probation officers were terrifying the children, said.

On Monday, Tate's legal representative, Howard Greitzer, told the judge the teen wanted to return home.

**Girl sold into marriage:** A refugee from Kosovo pleaded guilty to attempted rape in

the case of a 15-year-old girl who said her mother sold her to be his bride for \$3,000.

Bekim Lapjani, 22, of Rochester, N.Y., was initially charged with first-degree rape. His attorney, David Foster, said Lapjani pleaded guilty Monday to the reduced charge because he believed the sex was consensual.

The felony conviction will likely send him to prison for four years, followed by deportation. Lapjani could have faced a 50-year sentence if convicted of first-degree rape.

**New Jersey governor's race:** Republican Bret Schundler, who lost the 2001 New Jersey governor's race to the recently resigned Democrat James E. McGreevey, announced Monday he will seek the job again in 2005.

Schundler told cheering supporters that he would cut taxes by keeping state spending below the rate of economic growth. He cut taxes while mayor of Jersey City from 1992 to 2001.

He is the second prominent Republican to announce he will seek the party's gubernatorial nomination in as many weeks. Businessman Douglas R. Forrester, who lost a bid for U.S. Senate in 2002, announced last week that he will run for governor.

**New York Times libel suit:** A federal judge has dismissed a libel suit brought against The New York Times by bioterrorism expert Steven Hatfill, who claimed the newspaper falsely insinuated he was responsible for the deadly anthrax attacks in 2001.

U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton also dismissed Hatfill's lawsuit against Times columnist Nicholas Kristof, who wrote several columns in 2002 on the FBI's handling of the anthrax investigation.

Hilton ruled that Kristof's columns did not defame Hatfill, and that they accurately reflected the state of the FBI's investigation, in which Hatfill was labeled "a person of interest" by Attorney General John Ashcroft.

Stories and photos from wire services

# Beiji attack kills 5, injures 3 U.S. troops

BY STEVE LIEWER  
Stars and Stripes

**BELIJI, Iraq** — A suicide bomber detonated a car bomb next to a U.S. military cargo convoy in downtown Beiji on Tuesday morning, killing five Iraqis and injuring 20 people, including three American troops.

The car exploded on Highway 1, Beiji's main thoroughfare, at 9:10 a.m., said Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland, commander of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7, the Army unit that patrols the area around the city.

"We heard a big explosion," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Pingo, a tank driver attached to the task force's Company A, who was blocking traffic on the highway about two kilometers from the site. "We could tell by the size of it, it was rather substantial. We saw the smoke cloud."

An Iraqi traffic policeman, Dafer Salim Nejiriss, had stopped traffic on a side street while the convoy passed.

As the lead vehicle — a military truck called a Lightweight Mobile Tactical Vehicle, or LMTV — crossed the intersection, a Toyota at the head of the line of waiting vehicles on the side street pulled around the policeman next to the truck and lay down on the front seat.

"When the American convoy passed, he blew it up," Nejiriss said later through a translator from his hospital bed.

The LMTV rolled to a halt about 100 feet down the road, on fire near the driver's side door. The driver and passenger, both Air Force airmen attached to the 167th Corps Support Group in Tikrit, somehow escaped with bruises and minor shrapnel wounds.

"By the grace of God, those two [airmen] are still alive," McClelland said.

A soldier from Company C, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor Regiment, attached to Task Force 1-7, who was in a nearby tank, also suffered minor injuries. Medics took all three to the 67th Combat Support Hospital in Tikrit, but McClelland said all three were expected to return to duty later in the day.

*"We've been doing this for three weeks, and the enemy figured out a vulnerable place."*

**Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland**  
1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7 commander



Left: Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Sanders of the 1st Infantry Division's Task Force 1-7 inspects the burning wreckage of a truck attacked by a suicide car bomber in Beiji, Iraq, on Wednesday morning. The attack killed five Iraqis and injured 21 people, including three U.S. troops.

Below: A deep crater in the pavement on Highway 1 shows where the suicide car bomb detonated, destroying the U.S. military truck in the background.

PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER  
Stars and Stripes

McClelland and Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Sanders, the task force's senior non-commissioned officer, piled into Humvees and raced to the site after checking on the wounded troops.

They inspected the area, then met briefly with Beiji's mayor before visiting the city's single-story hospital.

Anxious Iraqis crowded the lobby and hallway, waiting for word on the fate of loved ones. Many of the injured were workers at the city's large oil refinery who had been riding to work on a bus that was in line behind the suicide bomber.

McClelland had used tanks to block off daytime traffic on Highway 1 in the city since Nov. 17, when a similar car bomb attack killed 10 Iraqis and injured 23 people, including three U.S. soldiers.

Traffic hadn't been halted on side streets, however.

"We've been doing this for three weeks, and the enemy figured out a vulnerable place," McClelland said. "Obviously, a suicide bomber has one goal in life: to inflict as much pain as he can."

Beiji, a city of 125,000 residents 155 miles north of Baghdad that is home to two major power plants and an oil refinery, had been relatively peaceful until the past month. Insurgent attacks on Army patrols started large battles Nov. 9 and Nov. 14 that caused heavy damage to the city's business district.

And on Nov. 13, rebels blew up a key bridge on a highway bypass near Forward Operating Base Summerall, forcing the Army to route convoys through the heart of the city. They also planted at least 60 roadside bombs during the month, more than twice as many as in any previous month in the past year.

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## Bomber rams U.S. convoy on Baghdad's airport road

BY MARIAM FAM  
The Associated Press

**BAGHDAD** — A suicide bomber exploded a car packed with explosives next to a U.S. convoy on Baghdad's dangerous airport road on Tuesday, killing five Iraqi civilians and injuring 20 people, three of them American soldiers, the military said. Another American soldier from the 1st Infantry Division was wounded when insurgents fired a rocket-propelled grenade at a tank south of Beiji.

The attacks came as the military announced that its November death toll — fueled by the offensive against insurgents in Fallujah and insurgents' counterattacks — reached at least 135.

## No military casualties reported in suicide attack

That is the same number as in April, when the insurgency flared in Fallujah and elsewhere in the so-called Sunni Triangle, where U.S. forces and their Iraqi allies lost a large measure of control.

A U.S. Army soldier died from injuries suffered after a roadside bomb exploded late Monday night at his patrol north of Baghdad.

Amid the violence, interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi was expected to Jordan to meet with Iraqis living outside the country to encourage them to take part in the Jan. 30 election in a bid to support away from the insurgency. However, he ruled out a full-blown conference with insurgent enemies.

In the suicide attack, police Capt. Talib al-Alawani said a bomber drove his car into a U.S.

convoy on the airport road, scene of near daily attacks against U.S. military and Western targets.

The U.S. command confirmed that the attack occurred but had no further details.

Several casualties were seen lying next to a damaged vehicle, according to an eyewitness who arrived on the scene before troops sealed off the stretch of road where the blast occurred. A military ambulance drove up minutes later to evacuate the casualties.

The highway, which multinational troops use daily to commute between the huge military base at the airport and Baghdad's center, is considered one of the most dangerous roads in Iraq. The British Embassy announced Monday that its staff would no longer be permitted to travel on the road.

On Monday, 13 Marines were wounded in a mortar south of Baghdad, the military said. No further details were released.

Meanwhile, an official with Allawi's office said the prime minister will travel Tuesday to Jordan to meet with Iraqis outside the country as part of a dialogue on the country's future.

Allawi was to appear later Tuesday before the Iraqi National Council, a government advisory body, where he was expected to answer questions about the meeting. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, would not identify the Iraqi groups who would take part in the meeting.

The meeting is seen as an effort to reach out to various Iraqi groups to encourage broad participation in the Jan. 30 election.

Iraqi officials have insisted Allawi would not meet with "terrorists," meaning insurgent leaders.

Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told the National Council on Tuesday that the government recognized the need to "widen the scope of participation" in the election to those groups "that renounce violence and terrorism."

Zebari said Allawi would meet with about 25 to 35 "personalities," mostly from the Ramadi area of Anbar province. "We still think that national reconciliation is necessary and vital but we also make a distinction," Zebari said. "If there are people who are accused and are known for what they have committed — these people should be tried according to the laws." The Pentagon, meanwhile, said Monday the U.S. military death toll in Iraq since the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003 stands at 1,251. That is up 21 since the Pentagon last reported a total on Nov. 24.

# Summerall's many memorials honor fallen

## Gym, MWR facility help remember nine soldiers who've died

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE  
SUMMERALL, Iraq

Step onto Camp Summerall, and it doesn't take long to determine who are the fallen brothers.

Their names and pictures are everywhere: at the Sgt. Peter Enos memorial aid station; the SPC Nicholas Zangara MWR facility; the SPC Joshua Henry memorial gym; and the SPC. Morgan Jacobs airfield. At least one facility is named after each of the nine Summerall soldiers who died in Iraq: eight from the 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery and one from the 1st Battalion, 33rd Field Artillery.

On the wall of the 1-7 Field Artillery's headquarters building (an old airport control tower named Firebase Laramore-Matthews, after two more lost comrades) are photos of each dedication ceremony, along with a wooden plaque listing the names and dates of each of the unit's eight deaths and 19 injuries.

The latest addition is a giant 20-foot-by-60-foot memorial wall inside the Jones-Mallet Memorial Hall. Below the division and unit crests hang large photos of each man. The unit dedicated the wall on Veterans Day.

Their youthful faces smile down from framed portraits: Zangara's distorted, goofy mug with an eerie halo around his head; the beery, bald-headed Enos in a brown Army T-shirt, hands on hips with his head cocked to one side; Sgt. 1st Class Raymond Jones, grinning widely beneath a shock of thick black hair, wearing a stunningly blue University of Florida Gators T-shirt.

The many memorials were the idea of Command Sgt. Maj. Wayne Sanders, 42, of Hedrick, Iowa, the 1-7 Field Artillery's senior enlisted soldier.

"It shows the guys how much we care about our fallen comrades," Sanders said. "The death of a friend is something you just don't erase."

He enlisted the unit's two carpenters, SPC Paul Diaz, 30, of Los Angeles, and SPC Nathan Gintz, 22, of Dundee, Ohio, to create the monuments and signs in addition to their work of building furniture for the task force.

"The [memorial] wall was real significant," said Gintz, who served in Battery A with both Enos and Henry. "A couple of my best friends are on that wall."

Diaz and Gintz said the unit didn't know about the project until they were almost finished. As it neared completion, they focused lights on it in the otherwise darkened aircraft hangar. About 50 soldiers gathered around to see it.

"At first, they had no idea what it was," Diaz said. "Then they came and stood around it."

The memorials have made an impression on the troops at Summerall. "Some people think it's kind of nice, and some people think it's kind of odd," said Staff Sgt. Dan Sovell, 30, of Vidalia, Ga., who was killed in the convoy with Henry when he was kidnapped by small-arms fire Sept. 20. "But I like it."

"If you don't [memorialize] them, nobody will remember OIF2 (Operation Iraqi Freedom 2). ... People came out here and gave their lives."

Sanders said the unit will take the pictures and plaques that now hang in the headquarters buildings home to the 1-7



Soldiers from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 7th Field Artillery gather around a photo of their platoon-mate, SPC Nicholas Zangara, at the dedication of the MWR facility at Camp Summerall in his memory. Zangara was killed July 24.

WAYNE SANDERS  
Courtesy of the U.S. Army



WAYNE SANDERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Lt. Col. Kyle McClelland, commander of Task Force 1-7, speaks at the dedication of the unit's aid station in memory of Sgt. Peter Enos, a medic who died April 9.



STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Task Force 1-7 dedicated this memorial wall on Veterans Day to the soldiers who were killed while stationed at Forward Operating Base Summerall, Iraq.

Field Artillery's headquarters in Schweinfurt, Germany, when it heads back this spring.

He has talked to the sergeant major of the incoming unit, who has agreed to keep the names of the various facilities, replacing them only if the unit loses soldiers of its own.

## Remembering the fallen

Like many U.S. camps around Iraq, Forward Operating Base Summerall has tried to honor those who have died in the line of duty. The nine soldiers based out of Summerall who have died this year have each had a facility dedicated to their honor

**Staff Sgt. Toby W. Mallet**  
Kaplan, La.  
Battery C,  
1st Battalion,  
7th Field Artillery  
Died: April 9  
Age: 26



**SPC Tracy L. Laramore**  
Okaloosa, Fla.  
1st Battalion, 18th  
Infantry Regiment  
Battery A,  
Task Force 1-7  
Died: March 17  
Age: 30



**Cpl. Marcos O. Nolasco**  
Chino, Calif.  
Battery B,  
1st Battalion,  
33rd Field Artillery  
Died: May 18  
Age: 34



**SPC Clint J. Matthews**  
Bedford, Pa.  
1st Battalion, 18th  
Infantry Regiment  
Battery A,  
Task Force 1-7  
Died: March 19  
Age: 31



**SPC Nicholas J. Zangara**  
Philadelphia  
Battery C,  
1st Battalion,  
7th Field Artillery  
Died: July 24  
Age: 21



**Sgt. Peter G. Enos**  
South Dartmouth,  
Mass.  
Battery C,  
1st Battalion,  
7th Field Artillery  
Died: April 9  
Age: 24



**SPC Joshua J. Henry**  
Apollo, Pa.  
Battery A,  
1st Battalion,  
7th Field Artillery  
Died: Sept. 20  
Age: 21



**Sgt. 1st Class Raymond E. Jones Jr.**  
Gainesville, Fla.  
Battery C,  
1st Battalion,  
7th Field Artillery  
Died: April 9  
Age: 32



**SPC. Morgan N. Jacobs**  
Santa Cruz, Calif.  
1st Battalion, 18th  
Infantry Regiment  
Battery A,  
Task Force 1-7  
Died: Oct. 7  
Age: 20



Stars and Stripes

"That way, it stays pure," Sanders said. "It's a name, and it's an honor."

The memorial wall will stay as it is. The faces on the wall, he said, will remind future soldiers that war isn't just about glory. It's about loss.

"It's real," Sanders said. "And this is a reminder that it's real."

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**"The death of a friend is something you just don't erase."**

Command Sgt. Maj.  
Wayne Sanders



# 135 U.S. dead in November; matches worst month in Iraq

BY ROBERT BURNS

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Fueled by fierce fighting in Fallujah and insurgents' counterattacks elsewhere in Iraq, the U.S. military death toll for November equalled the highest for any month of the war, according to casualty reports available Tuesday.

At least 135 U.S. troops died in November. That is the same number as last April, when the insurgents flared in Fallujah and elsewhere in the so-called Sunni Triangle where U.S. forces and their Iraqi allies lost a large measure of control.

On Nov. 8, U.S. forces launched an offensive to retake Fallujah, and they have engaged in tough fighting in other cities since then.

More than 50 U.S. troops have been killed in Fallujah since then, although the Pentagon has not provided a casualty count for Fallujah for more than a week.

From the viewpoint of the United States and Iraqis who are striving to restore stability, the casualty trend since the interim Iraqi government was put in power June 28 has been troubling. Each month's death toll has been higher than the last, with the single exception of October, when it was 63.

The monthly tolls grew from 42 in June to 54 in July to 65 in August and to 80 in September.

The Pentagon's official death toll for Iraq, dating to the start of the war, stood at 1,254 on Tuesday. That total did not include a Marine killed Monday in Anbar province and a 1st Infantry Division soldier who died of wounds sustained in a roadside bomb attack late Monday night near the town of Alauz.

On Nov. 1 the official death toll stood at 1,121.

Combat injuries increased in November due to the fierce fighting in Fallujah. Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., reported Monday that it received 32 additional battle casu-



A puppy follows a U.S. Army soldier, from the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry, on patrol Tuesday in Mosul, Iraq. Recent fighting in Fallujah and elsewhere in Iraq resulted in the U.S. military death toll for November matching the highest for any month of the war.

alties from Iraq over the past two weeks. One was in critical condition. All 32 had been treated earlier at the Army's largest hospital in Europe, Landstuhl Regional Medical Center.

Some of the most severe injuries and many of the deaths among U.S. troops in Iraq are inflicted by the insurgents' homemade bombs, which the military calls improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

U.S. forces have put extraordinary effort into countering the IED threat, yet it persists. U.S. troops in Fallujah reported finding nearly as many homemade explosives over the past three weeks as had been uncovered throughout Iraq in the previous four months combined.

In recent action in Fallujah, troops found at least 650 homemade bombs, Bryan Whitman, a spokesman for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, said Monday. That compares with 722

found throughout the country between July 1 and Oct. 31.

The IEDs are rigged to detonate by remote control and often are hidden along roadways used by U.S. forces, to deadly effect.

Since U.S. forces invaded Fallujah on Nov. 8 to regain control, they have found about a dozen IED "factories," a number of vehicles being modified to serve as car bombs, and at least 10 surface-to-air missiles capable of downing aircraft, Whitman said.

More than half of the approximately 100 mosques in Fallujah were used as fighting positions or weapon storage sites, Whitman said, citing a U.S. military report that has not been released publicly.

U.S. officials knew insurgents had used Fallujah as a haven from which to plan and organize responses for attacks in Baghdad and other cities in the Sunni Triangle north and west of the capital, but the amount of weapons found exceeded expectations.

The Associated Press

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

As of Monday, at least 1,254 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 981 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, which was last updated Monday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, 1. Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,116 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 872 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ Two U.S. soldiers were killed Monday when their patrol struck a bomb in Baghdad, Iraq.

■ A U.S. soldier died Monday in a vehicle accident near Kut, Iraq.

■ Two Marines were killed Sunday when a bomb exploded south of Baghdad.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Michael B. Shackelford, 25, Grand Junction, Colo.; died Sunday in an attack in Ramadi, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, South Korea.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Carl W. Lee, 23, Oklahoma City, Okla.; died Sunday in an attack in Ramadi, Iraq; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Howze, South Korea.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Trinidad R. Martinez, 22, Los Angeles; died Sunday in Baquba, Iraq, when his vehicle rolled over. He was assigned to the Army's 201st Forward Support Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany.

■ Army Spc. Jeremy E. Hunsen, 27, Albuquerque, N.M.;

died Saturday in Dailayyah, Iraq, when a bomb exploded near his vehicle; assigned to 1st Squadron, 4th Armored Cavalry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany.

■ Marine Lance Corp. Jordan D. Winkler, 19, Tulsa, Okla.; died Friday in a noncombat related incident at Camp Fallujah, Iraq; assigned to Combat Service Support Battalion 1, Combat Service Support Group 11, 1st Force Service Support Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

■ Marine Corp. Kirk J. Bosselman, 21, Napa, Calif.; killed Saturday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Corp. Joshua E. Lucero, 19, Tucson, Ariz.; killed Saturday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Marine Lance Corp. Bradley M. Faircloth, 20, Mobile, Ala.; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Pvt. Brian K. Grant, 31, Dallas; died Friday in Ramadi, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by small arms fire; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Camp Howze, South Korea.

■ Marine Lance Corp. David B. Houck, 25, Winston Salem, N.C.; killed Friday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

■ Army Pfc. Harrison J. Meyer, 20, Worthington, Ohio; died Friday in An Ramadi, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by small arms fire; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, Camp Howze, South Korea.

■ Marine Lance Corp. Jeffery S. Holmes, 20, White River Junction, Vt.; killed Thursday in Iraq's Anbar province; assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C.

## Legal complaint filed about Abu Ghraib

BERLIN — A group of American civil rights lawyers filed a criminal complaint in Germany on Tuesday, asking for an investigation of top U.S. officials including Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and former CIA director George Tenet, saying they are responsible for acts of torture committed at Abu Ghraib.

Attorneys from the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights said U.S. investigations of the Abu Ghraib abuses have not gone far enough and that they hope a German investigation will keep the situation at the top of the U.S. government's agenda.

"I expect a serious investigation by Germany and would want to prompt the U.S. government to say: 'We've got to seriously investigate this ourselves,'" attorney Michael Ratner said at a news conference in Berlin.

"This is not something we would have preferred to do... We are left with the last resort in my view."

The attorneys said that since the United States is not a

member of the International Criminal Court they could not take the case there, and chose Germany because it has legislation that allows for the prosecution of war crimes and human rights violations across national boundaries.

The complaint was filed Tuesday morning with the German Federal Prosecutor's office in Karlsruhe, said spokeswoman Frauke Scheffner.

"We have received it and are looking into it," she said.

Those charged in the complaint include Rumsfeld, Tenet, Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez — former commander of U.S. Forces in Iraq who is now stationed in Germany — as well as seven other Pentagon and military leaders.

The abuses "were clearly authorized at the highest levels" of the chain of command, attorney Peter Weiss said. "It goes considerably beyond the question of merely inhuman treatment."

## Iraq's neighbors to meet

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's capital is an unlikely place for Iraq's neighbors and Egypt to discuss the infiltration of ter-

rorists into Iraq. Not only does the Persian country have a long history of conflict with Arabs, it is also accused by the United States of supporting the insurgency across the border.

Tuesday's meeting, though, is intended to send a signal that Tehran recognizes the threat of groups such as al-Qaida and is ready to help stabilize Iraq ahead of the first elections since the fall of Saddam Hussein.

"The objective of the meeting is to help Iraqis overcome instability and create security especially on their borders with neighboring states," said Ali Asghar Ahmadi, an Iranian security official.

Ahmadi said Iran tries to keep insurgents from infiltrating its border with Iraq. But at nearly 1,000 miles long, the frontier is hard to police.

Iran's solution is to offer to train Iraqis to police the border and provide them with the necessary equipment.

The conference is designed to help countries share intelligence on militant groups suspected of ties to the insurgency in Iraq.

From The Associated Press

# Group probes DOD for stun gun use on detainees

BY SAM HANANER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Amnesty International is asking the Defense Department whether the military used Taser electrical stun guns on prisoners in Iraq or Afghanistan, saying it is uneasy about reports of mistreatment and abuse.

The human rights group said it made the request under the Freedom of Information Act after interviewing dozens of prisoners formerly held by U.S. forces.

"We do have credible evidence that certainly raises the question that Tasers might have been

used," Gerald Le Melle, Amnesty International USA's deputy executive director, said Monday.

Marine Capt. Dan McSweeney, a spokesman for the Joint Directorate for Non-Lethal Weapons, said that the Army, "and to a limited extent, the Marine Corps," acquired Tasers earlier in 2004.

Based on research and available data, Pentagon officials "have determined that [the use of] Tasers are appropriate," McSweeney said. "They are fielded and currently being used."

But McSweeney said he could not comment on Amnesty's request, because the directorate is

responsible for the development of nonlethal weapons, but not how they are used once fielded.

"That would be a question for the services to address, or the units" that use the Tasers, McSweeney said in a Tuesday telephone interview.

Amnesty has long expressed misgivings about the safety of Tasers and whether they are open to abuse because they can inflict severe pain without leaving marks. The group has urged law enforcement agencies to suspend the use of all electroshock weapons pending the outcome of a vigorous independent inquiry into whether the weapons pose health risks.

Amnesty's request concerning prisoners seeks information on computer chips stored inside Taser guns that record the date, time and duration of each electric shock administered.

The group also is requesting information about deaths that might have occurred after a Taser was used, as well as training materials and guidelines for how soldiers are to use the weapons.

## Device's use growing

From Korean Air flight crews to U.S. police and corrections officers, orders for stun guns made by Taser International Inc. are pouring in.

The Scottsdale, Ariz., company even recently launched an ad campaign urging private citizens to arm themselves with the weapons, which temporarily paralyze people with a 50,000-volt electric current.

In a report released Tuesday, Amnesty International says stun guns are being abused by police and wants more scientific study done to determine whether the devices are safe.

Amnesty says at least 74 people have died in the United States and Canada in the past four years after being shocked with Tasers. The group also says officers have turned stun guns on the men-



Taser International employee Lucy Lazarova assembles the law enforcement version of the popular stun gun at the company's headquarters in Scottsdale, Ariz. The company's stock has soared but there are growing concerns about whether the stun guns are truly as non-lethal as advertised.

tally disturbed, children and the elderly.

"Not only do we not know the impact of these weapons on human beings under various conditions, we are also concerned about the gratuitous use of these weapons," said Le Melle.

Amnesty worried that "the deployment of Tasers, rather than minimizing the use of force, may dangerously extend the boundaries of what are considered 'acceptable' levels of force."

Taser officials bill the guns, which shoot two barbed darts whose current can penetrate up to two inches of clothing, as among the safest ways of subduing violent people in high-risk situations.

Tasers have a range of up to 21 feet and can also shock on contact, like a cattle prod. A Department of Defense-ordered study cited by Taser company officials in defending their technology does, however, also recommend more research on how Tasers affect sensitive or intoxicated people.

## Shocking force

Taser International Inc., the maker of stun weapons, has watched its stock soar amid growing concerns about whether the weapons are as non-lethal as advertised. In a report released Tuesday, Amnesty International says stun guns are being abused by police.

A Taser's electrical current overrides the central nervous system for five seconds, temporarily paralyzing targets

Datapoint stores date and time of Taser firing

Insulated wires transmit 50,000 volts of electricity through up to two inches of clothing

Disposable cartridge uses compressed nitrogen to launch probes up to 21 feet.

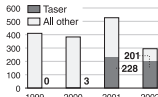
Probes hook wires to target's skin or clothing

Power older models use eight AA batteries, newer models are rechargeable

SOURCES: Amnesty International; Taser International

## Use of force incidents

At the Orange County, Fla., Sheriff's Office, Tasers were the most prevalent force option, constituting 68 percent of all use-of-force incidents in 2002.



Insulated wires transmit 50,000 volts of electricity through up to two inches of clothing

ID tags ejected like confetti when fired; printed with the serial number

Probes hook wires to target's skin or clothing

Power older models use eight AA batteries, newer models are rechargeable

# White House rejects Red Cross claims of abuse at Gitmo

BY ALEXANDER G. HIGGINS

The Associated Press

GENEVA — The international Red Cross said Tuesday that U.S. officials have failed to address concerns about some significant problems in the treatment of terror suspects detained at the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

But the neutral International Committee of the Red Cross, which is the only independent monitor allowed to visit the facility, refused "to publicly confirm or deny" whether details in a New York Times article about torture allegations were from its reports to U.S. officials setting out its findings during Guantanamo visits.

A Pentagon spokesman in Washington, however, confirmed that Red Cross officials have "made their view known" that the indefinite detention of terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, amounts to torture.

But the Bush administration rejected the ICR's accusation that detainees were in any way abused at Guantanamo.

"We simply disagree with any characterization that suggests the way detainees are being treated is inconsistent with the policies the president has outlined," said White House press secretary Scott McClellan on an Air Force One flight from Washington to Ottawa, Canada.

McClellan insisted that Guantanamo detainees "were being treated humanely," though he pointed out "the combatants that were picked up on the battlefield" were seeking to harm the United States.

The Times said the ICR has determined the U.S. military used psychological and physical coercion "tantamount to torture."

It said international Red Cross delegates found during a June visit to Guantanamo that U.S. authorities had devised and refined a system to break the will of prisoners, using humiliation, solitary confinement, temperature extremes and force positions.

Human rights campaigners said they weren't surprised by the allegations after

the leaking of a ICR report last May describing mistreatment of U.S. prisoners in Iraq.

The international Red Cross also found that some doctors were telling interrogators about prisoners' weaknesses in "a flagrant violation of medical ethics."

"We have said, including publicly, that there are significant problems regarding the conditions of detention and the treatment of detainees in Guantanamo that still have not been addressed by U.S. authorities," said Antonella Notari, chief spokeswoman for the ICR.

"We continue our discussions with the U.S. authorities in this regard," she added, but said the agency was sticking to its policy of discussing the details of its findings with U.S. officials, because it found the confidential approach achieved the best results.

An agency statement said its policy of confidentiality "has made it possible for the ICR to have repeated and regular access to those held at Guantanamo Bay and to speak with them in private."

Notari said it was possible that ICR President Jakob Kellenberger would go to Washington soon to meet with administration officials.

"When the international Red Cross raises issues, we work to address those issues," McClellan said, but he sidestepped questions about whether the ICR's findings had prompted further study by the administration or discussions with the Red Cross.

The ICR has been visiting Guantanamo regularly since early 2002.

"The ICR uses its exchanges with governments to make its concerns and recommendations regarding the situation in places of detention and to demand changes when necessary," the agency added.

"Guantanamo Bay is no exception," Notari said. The ICR saw as a "useful step" the recent creation of the Office of Detainee Affairs in the U.S. Department of Defense. The office has provided a forum in which issues relating to Guantanamo Bay can be discussed "in a more timely and systematic manner."

Associated Press writer Scott Lindlaw contributed to this report.

# DOD tests efficacy of smaller flu vaccine dose

By LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Pentagon, together with several federal health agencies, is conducting a study to see if a half-dose of flu vaccine is as effective in healthy people as a full dose.

Researchers are hoping that the results duplicate a 2001 study performed at the New York's University of Rochester, which showed that the half-dose does work in such populations.

If so, the study "could potentially it could double the vaccine supply," according to Maj. Molly Klotz, a physician and research fellow at Allergy-Immunology Department at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The study, begun in early November, was prompted by this year's vaccine shortage, according to Col. John Grabenstein, deputy director of the Military Vaccine Program in Arlington.

Members of the government's National Vaccine Advisory Committee, which includes many military health organizations, recalled that the University of Rochester's study of half-doses of flu vaccine administered to more than 1,000 healthy people had offered "promising" results, Grabenstein said.

Although the vaccine changes composition each year, the components are not drastically different, Klotz said Monday at the Pentagon.

So if half-doses of two different versions of the vaccine proved to provoke the same immune response in healthy people, "logically, you can infer" that every year's vaccine would be effective in the smaller dose, she said.

The new study includes about 1,375 volunteers, including 1249 Pentagon employees,

with the rest coming from Walter Reed, Klotz said.

None of the volunteers fall into the high-risk categories, which include people age 65 and older, children under age 2, and people whose immune systems are vulnerable. The U.S. government recommends that all high-risk people receive full doses of flu vaccine each year.

The study began with a single flu shot. Some volunteers got full doses and some half-doses, and researchers will not know who got which dose until the study's conclusion, Klotz said.

In addition to the shot, participants also had to donate a small tube of blood.

The next phase of the study is to draw another vial of blood from volunteers.

Researchers will compare the first vial of blood with the second to see whether the half-dose of vaccine prompted the body to produce the correct immune response, which peaks about three weeks after the initial flu shot, Klotz said.

Volunteers are also keeping a diary of any symptoms they experience over the course of the flu season, and researchers will be in touch via e-mail at least twice over the coming months to ask participants about any illnesses.

The researchers will track the volunteers until March 31, the official end of the flu season, Klotz said.

Walter Reed's Allergy-Immunology Department, Vaccine Healthcare Centers Network, and Army Institute of Research, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Federal Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and other members are coordinating the new study, Klotz said Monday at the Pentagon.

E-mail Lisa Burgess at [burgessl@stripes.osd.mil](mailto:burgessl@stripes.osd.mil)



LISA BURGESS/Stars and Stripes

Ken Chapman, a defense analyst for the Air Force who is participating in the flu vaccine study, has blood drawn Tuesday at the Pentagon by Pfc. Denise Leonard, of Passadumkeag, Maine. Leonard is a lab technician at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, D.C.

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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# Court lets stand schools' bans on military recruiters

BY DAVID B. CARUSO  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Colleges and universities can ban military recruiters from campus without fear of losing federal money, an appeals court has ruled.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday struck down a decade-old federal law known as the Solomon Amendment, saying it infringed on the free speech rights of law schools that had sought to limit on-campus recruiting in response to the military's ban on homosexuals.

Ruling in a lawsuit brought by a coalition of 25 law schools around the country, a three-judge panel said the government's threat to yank funding amounted to compelling the schools to take part in speech they didn't want to make.

"While no doubt military lawyers are critical to the efficient operation of the armed forces, mere incantation of the need for legal talent cannot override a clear First Amendment impairment," the court wrote.

The judges added that the law may have had the unintended effect of hampering recruiting by engineering ill-will among potential recruits.

By a 2-1 vote, the panel overturned an earlier decision by a federal judge that the people challenging the law were unlikely to prevail at trial.

The ruling may affect all institu-

tions of higher learning, but the case revolved around law schools because most had developed policies prohibiting discrimination by on-campus groups on the basis of sexual orientation.

Monday's ruling represented the first time a court enjoined the government from enforcing the law.

The Justice Department, which represented the government in the case, said it was examining the decision and reviewing its appeal options.

"The United States continues to believe that the Solomon Amendment is constitutional. As we argued in our brief, we believe that Congress may deny federal funds to universities which discriminate and may act to protect the men and women of our armed forces in their ability to recruit Americans who wish to join them in serving our country," the agency said in a statement.

One judge on the panel wrote a stinging dissent. Judge Ruggero John Aldisert said he was personally disturbed that law schools would, "as an academic exercise," ignore the consequences a recruiting ban would have on the military's ability to compete with well-heeled law firms for young talent.

"They obviously do not desire that our men and women in the armed services, all members of a closed society, obtain optimum justice in military courts with the best-trained lawyers and judges," Aldisert said.

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"They obviously do not desire that our men and women in the armed services, all members of a closed society, obtain optimum justice in military courts with the best-trained lawyers and judges," Aldisert said.

rape. In 2003, the academy was rocked by dozens of women, who said their reports of sexual assault were either mishandled or ignored.

Top leaders were replaced, and policies on conduct and alcohol have been overhauled.

An Article 32 hearing is roughly the military equivalent of a preliminary hearing. Investigating officer Maj. Vladimir Shirin will recommend whether a court-martial should be held.

The prosecutor, Maj. Michael O'Sullivan, contended that Ackley took advantage of a drunken woman.

But defense attorney Capt. Geraldyn Beit suggested the woman accused Ackley of sexual assault to avoid being punished for underage drinking. The woman wasn't old enough to drink legally at the time.



Lt. Col. Jonathan Withington, chief spokesperson for the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas, turns away from the media after making the announcement that a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed near Bruceville-Eddy, Texas, on Monday.

## Brigadier general among 7 killed in Black Hawk crash

BY T.A. BADGER  
The Associated Press

BRUCEVILLE-EDDY, Texas — Army officials on Tuesday identified two high-ranking officers from Fort Hood as being among the victims of Monday's helicopter crash that killed seven soldiers.

Brig. Gen. Charles B. Allen, 49, and Col. James M. Moore, 47, were aboard the UH-60 Black Hawk that struck support cables for a TV transmission tower in foggy morning weather about 30 miles northeast of Fort Hood.

Also identified were Capt. Todd T. Christmas, 26, Chief Warrant Officer 5 Douglas V. Clapp, 48, Chief Warrant Officer 2 David H. Gardner Jr., 32, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mark W. Evans Jr., 27, and Spc. Richard L. Brown, 29.

All were assigned to the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood.

Allen was the division's assistant division commander for support, while Moore was commander of the Division Support Command.

Gardner and Evans were the pilots of the Army UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, which went down about 7 a.m. Monday.

"It sounded like a big tree cracking, like something from Paul Bunyan," said Della Eicke, who lives near President Bush's ranch and is used to hearing heli-

copters. "Then I heard the explosion."

Everyone aboard the aircraft died in the fiery crash. The helicopter was flying through thick fog that obscured all but the lowest few hundred feet of the 1,800-foot-high tower, the Eickes said.

In addition, the red warning lights that normally mark the tower for aviators had been knocked out in a storm last week. An investigation team from the U.S. Army Safety Center at Fort Rucker, Ala., was sent to the scene to determine the crash's cause.

The soldiers were on their way to the Red River Army Depot in Texas to check out equipment being readied for use in Iraq, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Withington, spokesman for the Fort Hood-based 4th Infantry.

FAA spokesman Roland Herwig said the agency sent a notice on Nov. 24 to a computer database checked by pilots before they fly for information on potential hazards. Hundreds of such notices are issued every week around the country, and they typically stay posted for 15 days, he said.

Maj. Randy Cephus, a spokesman for the 4th Infantry, said safety investigators were trying to determine whether the pilots consulted the FAA database before taking off.



Black Hawk helicopter bound for Texas, from Fort Hood crashed, killing seven soldiers



**Black Hawk helicopter**

**Primary function:** Medium-lift helicopter

**Length:** 50 feet, 0.7 inches (15 meters)

**Max speed:** 225 mph (360 kph)

**Range:** 370 miles (592 km)

**Crew:** Four

**Accommodations:** Up to 11 soldiers

Sources: Jane's Information Group, ESRJ

## Airman says she doesn't recall consenting to sex

BY JON SARCHÉ  
The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — A physical therapist at the Air Force Academy hospital who accused an airman of raping her last spring testified Monday that she was too drunk at the time to remember whether the sex was consensual.

The woman, also an airman, said during the Article 32 hearing that she awoke with Senior Airman Levi Ackley in her bed after drinking with him and three other men the night of May 21 in Ackley's dorm room.

Ackley is charged with rape and forcible sodomy. He could face life in prison if convicted at a court-martial.

The case is the latest involving cadets or airmen accused of

rape. In 2003, the academy was rocked by dozens of women, who said their reports of sexual assault were either mishandled or ignored.

Top leaders were replaced, and policies on conduct and alcohol have been overhauled.

An Article 32 hearing is roughly the military equivalent of a preliminary hearing. Investigating officer Maj. Vladimir Shirin will recommend whether a court-martial should be held.

The prosecutor, Maj. Michael O'Sullivan, contended that Ackley took advantage of a drunken woman.

But defense attorney Capt. Geraldyn Beit suggested the woman accused Ackley of sexual assault to avoid being punished for underage drinking. The woman wasn't old enough to drink legally at the time.

## U.S. wreckage, bodies found in Afghanistan

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Rescuers on Tuesday found the wreckage of a missing U.S. aircraft and the bodies of several Americans who were aboard when it crashed in snow-covered mountains over the weekend, Afghan police said.

The transport plane, which was carrying three American crewmembers and three U.S. soldiers, was located southeast of Bamiyan in the heart of the Hindu Kush mountains, said Ghulam Mohammed, a senior police official in Bamiyan.

"They found pieces of the engine and the wheels scattered on top of Baba Mountain," which rises to 16,600 feet and was covered in fresh snow, Mohammed said.

He said several bodies had been recovered from the crash site and taken to the main U.S. military base at Bagram, from where it had departed on Saturday.

He had no information on the identities of the bodies found. There was no suggestion that anyone had survived.

The American military announced earlier Tuesday that the plane was missing and that search-and-rescue teams were struggling to reach the area where they suspected it came down.

A spokesman declined on Tuesday evening to say whether it had crashed or if any of the occupants were killed.

The CASA 112 transport plane was operated by Florida-based Presidential Airways and was contracted to the U.S. Air Force in Afghanistan, U.S. military spokesman Mark McCann said.



## IN THE WORLD

## In official visit, Bush seeks to mend ties with Canada

Trade dispute, war in Iraq have soured friendship

By DEB RIECHMANN  
The Associated Press

OTTAWA — President Bush sought Tuesday to patch up relations with Canada after years of bickering, flying here for tough hemispheric and global talks amid boisterous demonstrations from opponents of the U.S. led-war in Iraq.

Bush's trip here was the first official visit by a U.S. president in nearly 10 years and his meeting with Prime Minister Paul Martin was akin to a political dance. Bush wanted to avoid any misadventures that could amplify anti-Americanism north of the U.S. border.

But his unpopularity in some Canadian quarters was unmistakable. Some of the several hundred protesters near the Parliament Building were polite. "Please leave," read one sign along Bush's highly secured motorcade route. But others near where Bush and Martin met held placards that branded Bush an "assassin." A truck parked near the mo-



President Bush and first lady Laura Bush walk toward Air Force One en route to Ottawa, Canada, on Tuesday at Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington.

torcade route was emblazoned with the phrase "Bush is a war criminal." Another placard simply commanded, "Go Home ..."

An Ipsos-Reid/CTV poll released Tuesday shows 58 percent of Canadians think Bush's re-election was a "bad thing," while 26 percent believed it was good. The poll surveyed 1,000 Canadians and had an margin of error of 3.1 percentage points.

Regarding the North American missile defense system, Martin has promised an open debate in the House of Commons on whether Canada should take part in the

program. Polls show a majority of Canadians are against joining the system, calling it destabilizing and a misguided effort to put weapons in space.

Some prominent Canadians, such as war historian Gwynne Dyer and former deputy prime minister John Manley, suggest signing on to missile defense will give Canada the latitude to say no to larger issues, as it did to sending troops to Iraq.

The two-day visit was focused on creating goodwill, but thorny economic issues were also sure to arise at the meeting between the leaders whose nations have the world's largest trading partnership.

The United States and Canada do more than \$1 billion in business a day; 85 percent of Canada's exports go to the United States.

Bush and Martin also are expected to talk about security on the U.S.-Canada border, the war on terrorism and efforts to expand democracy to other corners of the world.

Canada stood with France and Germany in deciding not to send troops to Iraq, but pledged \$300 million for reconstruction and is helping train Iraqi police officers in Jordan. Martin is expected to offer to send Canadian observers to help oversee January elections in Iraq.

Relations between the Bush administration and Canada go off to a rocky start when Bush, a new president, chose Mexico instead of Canada as the first country he'd visit. Trade disputes and the war in Iraq further soured the friendship.



A rescuer brings down one of the survivors after a storm hit Quezon province in eastern Philippines on Tuesday.

## Nearly 340 killed as second storm slams eastern Philippines

By PAT ROQUE

The Associated Press

MARAGUNDON, Philippines — A powerful rainstorm triggered landslides and flash floods that killed nearly 340 people in the eastern Philippines, officials said Tuesday, and rescuers raced to save those stranded in three coastal towns before a typhoon strikes the hard-hit region.

At least 150 people were reported missing, and the region was largely cut off by landslides and floodwaters that washed away bridges and roads. Helicopter crews struggled to find places to land and dropped food to residents huddled on rooftops.

Authorities planned to send a coast guard boat to three stricken towns in Quezon province, east of the capital, to deliver supplies or pick up evacuees. Forecasters predicted a new typhoon circling off the Pacific coast could hit the area as early as Wednesday.

Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman went to Quezon province Tuesday following the overnight storm and reported that at least 306 people were killed there and 150 others were missing.

Thirty-two people died elsewhere, authorities said.

Soliman said bad weather and blocked roads prevented officials from delivering relief supplies and rescuing people from rooftops in parts of the province 40 miles east of Manila.

"The current is still strong and the water is still high," she said. "The rains caused the flash floods, and the soil could not hold up the water in the mountains."

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was returning from a regional summit in Laos and planned to visit the storm-ravaged areas. She went to the region just last week after a typhoon and another storm killed at least 87 people and left 80 missing.

## Iran says uranium enrichment suspension is for limited time

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran claimed victory in its nuclear dispute Tuesday, saying it has isolated the United States while preserving its right to enrich uranium.

Iran said it has not abandoned its right to enrich uranium, in spite of U.S. pressure, noting the agreement it struck this week with the U.N. nuclear watchdog only suspend processing for several months.

Speaking to reporters, Iran's top nuclear official, Hasan Rowhani, hailed the resolution passed by the International Atomic Energy Agency on Monday appointing IAEA head Mohamed ElBaradei to monitor Iran's commitment to freeze uranium enrichment activities.

Such enrichment can produce either low-grade fuel for nuclear reactors or the raw material for atomic weapons.

Monday's resolution followed a Nov. 7 agreement on suspending enrichment activities that France, Germany and Britain negotiated with Iran to stave off tougher action by the U.N. watchdog agency, which had referred Iran to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

"This new situation is a turning point in Iran's nuclear case because, for the first time, the (IAEA) board of governors acknowledged Iran's right to peaceful nuclear activities," Rowhani said.

It was, he said, a "great success for Iran and Europeans" because it required Iran to suspend uranium enrichment only temporarily.

The United States suspects Iran has a secret program to produce nuclear weapons and has been lobbying for the country's nuclear file to go before the Security Council.

Iran insists its program is strictly for generating electricity.

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# EU hopes to end Bosnia mission in 3 years

## Bloc's military arm takes over peacekeeping duties from NATO this week

BY PAUL AMES  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — The European Union said Tuesday it hopes its new peacekeeping mission in Bosnia can be completed within three years and expressed confidence top war crimes suspects will be detained by then.

The EU, which takes over the peacekeeping role from NATO this week, said it expected fugitive Bosnian Serb leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic would be brought before the U.N. war crimes tribunal, despite NATO's failure to catch them during its nine-year mission.

"A period of three years is something that would be reasonable to think about" for the length of the mission the EU starts Thursday, said Piter Feith, the bloc's director of security and defense policy.

He said during a news conference the situation in Bosnia should have improved

enough by then to allow the military side of the operation to be wrapped up, although the EU would continue with police assistance along with political and economic cooperation.

Asked if the EU military would leave while Karadzic and Mladic are still at large, Feith said, "I cannot leave you with promises... but I think it's highly unlikely."

The EU is taking on its biggest military operation with the 7,000-strong Bosnian mission. It is a major test of the EU's drive to develop a military arm, which was begun following the European bloc's failure to halt the ethnic fighting that ravaged Bosnia in the early 1990s.

"This is a large step for the EU," said British Gen. Sir John Reith, who will command the EU mission. The operation is "much larger and more complex" than the union's previous military deployments to Macedonia and Congo last year, he added.

Reith said the EU force would be more intelligence-led than its NATO predecessor in its search for war crimes suspects.

He also said the troops would take a higher profile in tackling organized crime and corruption, which he described as a bigger threat to Bosnia's security than any risk of renewed fighting between the country's Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

"The entities neither have the ability nor the will to go back to conflict," the general said. However, he warned them against putting EU resolve to the test. "Anyone who was even thinking of testing our mettle would realize that it would not be in their interest," he cautioned.

NATO's mission, which started with 60,000 troops, has gradually been scaled down to 7,000 as the situation in Bosnia has stabilized. Most of the troops serving with NATO are European, and the main change on the ground will involve the replacement of around 1,000 U.S. troops, mostly with soldiers from Finland.

"On the ground, the people will see no difference apart from the EU badges," said Reith, showing his uniform shoulder patch in the EU's blue-and-gold colors.

NATO will offer backup to the EU mission and will retain up to 350 soldiers in Sarajevo to help continued efforts to track down war crime suspects and help the Bosnian government with defense reforms.

Separately, the United States will also maintain a small force in the northern city of Tuzla, including helicopters to help the hunt for suspected war criminals.

Feith said the EU military operation would dovetail with its civilian efforts to bring Bosnia closer to the European mainstream.

That could eventually lead to EU membership, but Feith stressed progress depended on the authorities in Bosnia — including the Bosnian Serbs — cooperating with the international tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

# Dalai Lama leads prayers at Buddhist monastery in Russia

BY SERGEI VINYAVSKIY  
The Associated Press

ASHKANI, Russia — Thousands of Buddhist pilgrims trekked to a temple in the southern republic of Kalmykia on Tuesday for prayers led by the Dalai Lama during his first visit to Russia in a decade.

The Buddhist spiritual leader has been denied entry to Russia for years because of Moscow's concerns about potentially damaging its strategic relationship with Beijing. The Dalai Lama lives in exile in India and leads Tibetans who have resisted half a century of Chinese rule.

Russia had rejected visa requests for the Dalai Lama at least three times since his 1994 visit. The Russian Foreign Ministry said it granted the Dalai Lama a visa this year on the grounds that he limit his activities solely to pastoral purposes, and he told reporters

ers his purpose was to advance "human values."

China expressed dismay over the visit.

"We cannot understand why Russia granted him permission to visit, and we hope that Russia can strictly abide by... relevant political agreements between the two sides," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue.

As believers set up small stools outside the elaborately decorated temple at the Khurul Monastery to await morning prayers, the Dalai Lama sat on a raised platform inside under an elaborately carved gold statue of Buddha, surrounded by urns of chrysanthemums and roses, and monks sitting on carpets. They ate white rice and raisins of white china — the color signifying purity.

Pilgrims walked more than a mile through a wind-swept field to reach the monastery, about

four miles northeast of the Kalmyk capital Elista, passing through seven police security checks. As they entered the monastery complex, they paused to touch 18 drums lined up on both sides under carved roofs.

"There is a link of many generations between your people and Tibet," the Dalai Lama told his followers through an interpreter.

Many pilgrims carried small silk scarves with them, symbolizing a meeting with Buddha. Each time they saw the Dalai Lama, they waved the scarves to show they came with pure hearts and souls.

The Dalai Lama consecrated a temple built at the same monastery in 1996.

The spiritual leader arrived Monday in Kalmykia, one of the largest centers of Buddhism in Russia, some 1,000 miles southeast of Moscow. About half the region's 300,000 residents are Buddhists.



The Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of the people of Tibet, arrives Monday in Elista, Kalmykia, in southern Russia, 1,000 miles southeast of Moscow. The Dalai Lama made his first visit to Russia after Moscow abruptly reversed its refusal to grant him entry.

## Two face death on drug charges in Singapore

SINGAPORE — Two Africans could face the death penalty in Singapore after being arrested Tuesday on drug trafficking charges following a weekend seizure of 1,200 grams of heroin at the city-state's airport, the Central Narcotics Bureau said.

Wuchufu Anara Tochi, 19, a Nigerian who was caught with the drugs worth \$1.3 million, was charged with possession of a controlled drug for the purpose of trafficking, said Dawn Sim, the bureau's public affairs officer.

Okeke Nelson Malachy, 33, from South Africa, has been charged with trafficking the alleged tracking bid. Sim said Under Singapore law, anyone possessing more than 0.53 ounces of heroin is presumed to be trafficking and faces death if found guilty.

## Greeks drop objections to screening 'Alexander'

ATHENS, Greece — A group of Greek lawyers angry at the portrayal of Alexander the Great as a bisexual in the Hollywood movie "Alexander" suspended legal action Tuesday after conceding they had not watched the film. Court officials said the group of 25 lawyers withdrew a request to delay the movie's screening in Greece.

The lawyers argue there is no historical evidence supporting claims that Alexander had male lovers. They agreed to suspend the action until watching a preview screening of "Alexander" later this week.

From wire reports

# Rights group charges many victims of Bhopal gas leak not compensated

BY NIRMALA GEORGE  
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Twenty years after the world's worst industrial accident, many survivors of the Bhopal poisonous gas leak still haven't received fair compensation and the site of the disaster remains contaminated, Amnesty International said.

Some 15,250 people died and more than half a million others were sickened after lethal methyl isocyanide leaked from a Union Carbide pesticide plant in the central Indian town of Bhopal on Dec. 3, 1984.

Union Carbide Corp., which has since merged with Dow Chemical Co., paid a \$470 million settlement with India's government in 1989. But only part of that amount has been given to the survivors who continue to suffer, Amnesty International said in report released Monday.

"The survivors still await just compensation, adequate medical assistance and treatment, and comprehensive economic and social rehabilitation," the London-based rights group said in "Clouds of injustice: Bhopal disaster 20 years on."

"The plant site has still not been cleaned up. As a result, toxic wastes continue to pollute the environment and contaminate the water and surrounding communities rely on."

Both Union Carbide and Dow Chemical have denied responsibility for the gas leak. Activists and lawyers say the companies have refused to reveal the exact chemicals leaked in the accident.

In New Delhi on Monday, Bhopal survivors demanded justice for the hundreds of thousands of people still suffering the effects of the disaster, and called for the plant site to be cleaned up.

## IN THE STATES

## Ridge resigns from homeland security post

BY KATHERINE PFLEGER SHRADER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has informed the White House and department staff that he has resigned, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

In an e-mail circulated to senior Homeland Security officials, Ridge praised the department as "an extraordinary organization that each day contributes to keeping America safe and free." He also said he was privileged to work with the department's 180,000 employees "who go to work every day dedicated to making our country better and more secure."

Government officials, speaking on grounds of anonymity because a formal announcement was pending, confirmed his

resignation. A Washington news conference was scheduled for mid-afternoon.

In October 2001, Ridge became the nation's first White House homeland security adviser, leading a massive undertaking to rethink all aspects of security within the U.S. borders in the wake of the terror attacks of September 2001.

Congress subsequently passed legislation establishing the Homeland Security Department, merging 180,000 employees from 22 government agencies. Ridge be-



Ridge

came the department's first secretary in January 2003.

He has presided over six national "orange alerts" when the government boosted security out of concern that an attack may be coming. An attack in the United States never happened on his watch.

Ridge has said, however, that he believes an assault by the al-Qaida terrorist network was averted last summer during the Fourth of July holiday period, when intelligence reports indicated terrorists might be targeting international flights to attack the United States. Passenger manifests were scrutinized and flights were canceled.

Yet Ridge, a politician by nature, fought criticism leading up to the election from

those who said he was using terror warnings to boost support for Bush. Ridge repeatedly said: "We don't do politics in the Department of Homeland Security."

Ridge, 59, has privately expressed his interest in moving out of the time-consuming, stressful post. However, those who know him said his loyalty to Bush was always a factor to consider.

Ridge, who has spent most of his adult life in public service, came home from Vietnam, earned a law degree and went into private practice in Pennsylvania. He later served as an assistant district attorney and ran for Congress in 1982.

Ridge was re-elected five times. He became the Pennsylvania governor in 1995, leaving the state Capitol in October 2001 after the White House called.

## Mfume to step down as NAACP president

BY WILEY HALL  
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Saying he needs a break, NAACP President Kweisi Mfume announced Tuesday that he's stepping down as the head of the nation's oldest and largest civil rights group.

The organization's legal counsel, Dennis Hayes, will serve as interim president while a national search is conducted.

For the last nine years, I've had what I believe is both the honor and the privilege to help revive and to help restore this great organization, which has ... really become an American institution," Mfume said.

He said he wanted to spend more time with his family. "I just need a break. I need a vacation," he said. "I'm just not going to do anything for a while."

Mfume, 56, has been president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People since 1996. Before that, he was a congressman for nine years.

He inherited an organization tarnished by scandal and burdened by a \$3.2 million debt and is credited with steering it into an era of stability and growth with corporate-style management techniques, including cost-saving layoffs.

"In my heart of hearts, I know the job has been done, and I step aside willingly ... to find another challenge and another chance to make a real difference," he said.

Last month, the organization's chairman, Julian Bond, announced that its tax-exempt status is under review by the government in an investigation he contends stems from a speech he gave that criticized President Bush. Bond said IRS agents were investigating his keynote address July 11 at the NAACP's annual convention in Philadelphia.

For an organization to keep its tax-exempt status, "leaders cannot make partisan comments in official organization publications or at official organizational functions," according to an IRS letter to the NAACP from the IRS office in Louisville, Ky.

In September, the group launched an advertising campaign aimed at combating what officials describe as stagnant membership growth.

The civil rights group, founded in 1909, wants to increase membership by 20 percent, Mfume said at the time.



Patrick Daley, 29, the son of Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, will soon report to active duty as an enlisted soldier in the Army's regular airborne infantry, possibly between Christmas and New Year's Day.

## 29-year-old son of Chicago mayor enlists in U.S. Army

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Mayor Richard Daley's 29-year-old son has enlisted in the Army and soon will report for duty in the airborne infantry.

"It's been in the back of my mind for some time," Patrick Daley told the Chicago Sun-Times in Tuesday's editions. "I left West Point during my freshman year when I was 18 years old and always remembered their motto,

'Duty, Honor and Country.' But I was so young and not really old enough to understand what it really meant. But I know now."

Daley finished college at the University of Illinois and got a master's degree in business from the University of Chicago in June.

He could have pursued lucrative job offers, but he said the Sept. 11 attacks played a role in his decision to enlist. "Dad is very supportive and mom is doing just what mothers are supposed to do,

worrying about her son," he said.

The mayor said Tuesday that he never tried to talk his son out of the move. His only advice: Stand by your decision.

"I'm very proud of the decision he made," he said. "He believes that [the military] is part of public service."

Asked about his own feelings toward the war in Iraq, the Democratic mayor said: "You stand by the president; you stand by the men and women of the military."

## Body matching NBC executive's son found in wreckage

BY JOHN MARSHALL  
The Associated Press

MONTROSE, Colo. — Investigators probing what caused a jet to crash during takeoff want to know whether it was de-iced before it went down, killing NBC sports executive Dick Ebersol's youngest son and two other people, a federal official said Tuesday.

They have not ruled out other possible factors.

"We do want to look at de-icing because of the weather conditions but we're not going to just focus on one possibility," Ellen Engelman Connors, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, told CBS' "The Early Show."

The plane carrying Ebersol and two of his sons crashed Sunday while taking off from the airport outside this small town 185 miles southwest of Denver.

A snowstorm had moved through the area and there was light snow and fog at the time of taking.

Digging through the charred wreckage, investigators on Monday found what is believed to be the body of 14-year-old Edward Ebersol, youngest son of Ebersol, 57, and his wife, "Kate and Allie" star Susan Saint James.

Ebersol and the couple's oldest son, Charles, and the plane's

co-pilot remain hospitalized and are expected to recover. Saint James and the middle Ebersol son, 18-year-old Willie, were not on the flight.

The pilot, 50-year-old Luis Alberto Palanco Espallat of the Dominican Republic, and flight attendant Warren T. Richardson III, 36, of Coral Gables, Fla., were also killed. The co-pilot was in critical condition at a burn unit in Denver.

Espallat had a valid Dominican pilot's license, which he first obtained in 1977 and renewed as recently as 2000, said Francis Mesa, a spokesman for Dominican Civil Aeronautics.

Mesa said Espallat had worked as a private pilot for individuals and companies in the Dominican.

The plane's voice recorder was recovered Monday. The jet did not have a flight data recorder.





## OPINION

## U.S. pays for U.N.'s mistakes in many ways

The horse manure is piled higher than ever, and it stinks in high heaven.

But despite all the evidence to the contrary, many of us still think there must be a pony in there somewhere.

Jack Kelly



The lingering support for the United Nations among Americans is a triumph of hope over experience. The U.N. was (largely) the brainchild of American liberals, who thought that if only the nations of the world had a place where they could talk out their differences, we could put an end to war and all sorts of other bad stuff.

This didn't work so well with the League of Nations, followed by World War I and all wars, but learning from experience is not something liberals do much of.

It wasn't long before our creation bit us in the tush.

We want the United Nations to promote world peace. But for most of the U.N.'s members today, the primary purpose of the organization is to place shackles on American power.

When a nation is as powerful as ours, it's understandable that the Lilliputians would feel that they have a common interest in restraining Gulliver. What isn't so understandable is why the United States should continue to host, and (largely) pay for, an organization that has made frustrating us its raison d'être.

Most of us would put up with a lot of frustration if it would lead to less violence, hunger, poverty and disease in the world. But the U.N. today doesn't do what we imagined it would do back to those heady, idealistic

days at Dumbarton Oaks.

Consider the U.N.'s role in resolving the current political crisis in Ukraine. What role, you ask? Precisely.

Tens of thousands of Ukrainian villagers in the Darfur region of Sudan are being murdered by Arabs, with the complicity of the Sudanese government. What is the U.N. doing about it? Just what it is doing to resolve the political crisis in the Ukraine.

But it could be said that the Ukrainians and the Sudanese in Darfur are more fortunate than those poor souls who have received U.N. "help" in the past. U.N. peacekeepers idly watched genocide in Rwanda, and actually facilitated it in Bosnia. U.N. peacekeepers in the Congo are known best for sexually molesting women under their "protection."

The U.N.'s Oil for Food program has become the biggest financial scandal in the history of the world. With the complicity of U.N. officials — including the son of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan — Saddam Hussein took at least \$21 billion that was meant to provide food and medicine for poor Iraqis and spent it on palaces, weapons, rewards for terrorists and bribes for Security Council members France, Germany and Russia.

Oil for Food is the mother of all U.N. financial scandals, but is hardly the first. In a 1995 paper, Stefan Halper of the Cato Institute described the organization as "a miasma of corruption." Former U.N. aid workers Kenneth Cain, Heidi Posedewitz and Andrew Thomson describe how the U.N. "helps" people in their book "Emergency Sex and Other Desperate Measures." With the United Nations, the difficulty is not in finding corruption; it's finding a U.N. program that isn't awash in it.

Horse is losing ground to experience. In a recent poll, 60 percent of Americans said the U.N. is doing "a poor job."



Annan is aware he has a public relations problem. He appointed a commission of big shots to recommend reforms. The High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change will make its report Thursday.

The panel will say that the U.N. must condemn all terror attacks on civilians or lose its moral authority, the London Telegraph said Monday.

This won't sit well with the kleptocrats who control the General Assembly. They've blocked for years a comprehensive U.N. convention on terrorism on the grounds that it should exclude groups fighting "occupation" or "colonialism," and likely will do so again.

We shouldn't stand for it. If the U.N. con-

tinues to turn its back on reform, we should turn our backs to it.

We hold the high cards. The U.N. cannot survive without our financial contribution (22 percent of its total budget). And few in the U.N. bureaucracy would relish relinquishing the ambience of New York for the delights of, say, Zimbabwe.

A U.N. that actually would promote liberty, democracy and human rights would be eminently worthwhile. But no U.N. at all would be an improvement over the one we've got now.

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

## Until U.S. pays as it goes, dollar will keep dropping

When President Bush met the leaders of 20 Asian and Pacific nations last week, he wanted to talk about North Korea and Iran. But those nations had another security crisis on their minds — the fall of the dollar.

Daniel Snieder



The dollar is now down to nine-year lows and there are more jitters about a financial crisis. If foreign lenders lose confidence, they could trigger a fresh collapse of the dollar. As the cost of imports rises, inflation could jump. And interest rates for banks and home buyers would

soar as investors demand a higher return for their greater risk.

That scenario is probably overdrawn. But the dollar's drop reflects the belief that the American economy is not healthy.

The signs of illness are too huge and growing imbalances — the federal budget deficit and the current account deficit, the shortfall between what America takes in from the world through trade and investment and what it spends. In 1999 the global balance stood at zero. Now the United States is \$665 billion in the hole.

President Bush made soothing noises at the Asian Pacific economic summit about the commitment to a "strong dollar." But investors correctly read the signals that the actual policy is to let markets drive down the value of the dollar in an orderly way.

The administration sees dollar devaluation as a way to correct a global imbalance. It will make American exports cheaper and

more competitive and imports more expensive for American consumers. They are confident the United States remains an attractive place for the world to park its money.

Those currencies that trade freely (the euro, Canadian dollar, British pound and, lately, the Japanese yen) have gone up rapidly in value against the dollar in the last few weeks. The one major trading partner that has escaped so far is China, whose currency is fixed to the value of the dollar. The Chinese want to keep their exports cheap but American pressure may force a small revaluation of its currency.

Our trading partners are unhappy about the dollar's slide. But this is needed correction. The danger is the fall will encourage countries to reduce their dollar holdings, shifting to euros, gold or Japanese stocks

whose value has been rising.

The problem for the United States is that those dollars are now financing our huge budget deficit, which will hit \$450 billion this year. The administration has been unwilling to ask Americans to pay for the war on terror and the war in Iraq.

The twin deficits are driven in part by the growing difference between what Americans spend and what they earn. American savings — both household, corporate and, of course, government savings — have deteriorated greatly in the last five years. Instead we borrow money abroad.

The Chinese, emboldened by the reality that we depend on their dollars, now happily lecture us on our profligate ways.

It is true that Americans consume more than they produce. But we can keep doing it,

up to a point, because the folks who import from (mostly, but not entirely, in Asia) are happy to produce more than they consume and to lend us money to buy their stuff.

"We are stuck with each other — they are the lenders of last resort and we are the consumers of last resort," says Robert Madsen, senior fellow at MIT's Center for International Studies and an expert on Asian economies. "If they stopped lending we would have a lot of trouble. If we stopped consuming, they would go into recession." ...

Ultimately America needs to reduce a dangerous dependency on foreign lenders. The only way to do that is to save more and to pay for what we spend on our ourselves and our government.

Daniel Snieder is foreign affairs columnist for the San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News.

## Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



# First trial begins in truck-smuggling deaths

BY JUAN A. LOZANO

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Three members of an organization responsible for the nation's deadliest smuggling attempt were part of a criminal scheme that "treated people worse than cattle on the way to the slaughterhouse," prosecutors said Tuesday.

Opening statements in the first trial related to the May 2003 deaths of 19 illegal immigrants inside a tractor-trailer began Tuesday morning.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel Rodriguez said Victor Jesus Rodriguez, Claudia Carrizales de

## 19 died in tractor-trailer abandoned in Texas heat

Villa and Fredy Giovanni Garcia-Tobar were part of a smuggling circle that tried to transport a group of more than 70 immigrants.

Packed inside the nearly airless trailer, the immigrants began succumbing to stifling temperatures that, at one point, estimate reached 173 degrees during their trip from South Texas to Houston.

Early the next morning, the trailer was abandoned at a truck stop near Victoria about 100 miles southwest of Houston.

Authorities found 17 immigrants dead inside the trailer. Two died later.

The victims, including a 5-year-old boy, died from dehydration, hyperthermia and suffocation. The immigrants were from Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic.

The defendants each face 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants. If convicted, each could get up to life in prison.

Victor Rodriguez, 38, is ac-

cused of picking up several immigrants who had arranged with his parents to be smuggled and taken to a house belonging to his father. Authorities say his parents, Victor Sanchez and Emma Rodriguez, ran one of the operation's smuggling cells.

"Survivors will tell you that Victor Jesus Rodriguez was second in command to his father," Daniel Rodriguez told jurors.

But Alberto Pullen, Victor Rodriguez's attorney, said his client had little involvement. He said Victor Rodriguez admitted to

dropping off three illegal immigrants in Harlingen to be smuggled at the request of his father.

Tyronne Williams, the Schenectady, N.Y., man who allegedly drove the truck that hauled the immigrants and later abandoned it, is set to go to trial Jan. 5. Prosecutors say he was recruited by Garcia-Tobar.

Williams is the only one of 14 defendants indicted in the case who could face the death penalty if convicted.

The trial of another defendant is on hold. Five others previously pleaded guilty. Four were arrested in Mexico and face trial there. The trial could last up to a month.

## Actor John Barrymore dead at 72

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — John Drew Barrymore, heir to an acting dynasty and absent father of movie star Drew Barrymore, had a colorful career.

He died Monday in Los Angeles at age 72, Drew Barrymore said in a statement issued by her publicist. No information was released about the cause of death.

"He was a cool cat. Please smile when you think of him," she said in the statement.

He was part of an acting clan that included his father, the famed stage and film actor John Barrymore, his mother, silent screen star Dolores Costello, and his father's siblings, Lionel and Ethel Barrymore. Drew Barrymore is his daughter by his third wife, Dikiko Jaid Barrymore.

He started his career as a teenager, billed first as John Barrymore Jr., with early roles in the 1950s movies "The Sundowners," "High Lonesome" and "Quebec."

But there were problems with drugs, drinking and violence, domestic and otherwise.

By 1964 he had been married twice, to Cara Williams and to Italian actress Gabriella Palazzolo, and had returned to Hollywood after making more than a dozen films overseas — none of them any good by his own estimation.

As a teenage star battling alcoholism himself, Drew Barrymore wrote about her father in the memoir "Little Girl Lost." He was depicted as menacing, showing up only to abuse his daughter and former wife and ask for money.

Barrymore is also survived by a son, John Barrymore III, by his first wife.

## Some women say airport security goes too far

BY ERIN MCCLAM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rhonda Gagnier, a New York real-estate lawyer, was flying home from Tampa, Fla., and passing through airport security when she was asked to step aside for additional screening.

What happened next shocked her: Using an open hand, a security agent touched her on her shoulders, under her arms, around her waist, across her bra strap, and between her breasts, Gagnier said — all in front of other passengers.

"I was almost in tears," she said. "I've never been so humiliated in my life. It's one of the worst experiences I've ever had to endure."

The padout before that on Oct. 10, Gagnier says, the result of a new government directive that airport screeners carry out more frequent, and more thorough, searches for explosives.

But women across the nation say the padouts go too far. Some are so angry that they have stopped flying altogether.

The new policy was implemented by the Transportation Security Administration on Sept. 22, after 90 people were killed in two plane crashes in Russia believed to have been caused by Chechen women who carried explosives on board.



Rhonda Gagnier, a New York real-estate lawyer, talks Monday about her ordeal with airline security while in New York. Gagnier says she was groped by an airport screener in Tampa, Fla., and is considering a lawsuit against the Transportation Security Administration.

Sommer Gentry, a Massachusetts Institute of Technology graduate student who commutes twice a month from her home in Baltimore, said she now takes Amtrak, rather than submit herself to the intrusive airport search.

Gentry said she has had several unpleasant encounters with the screeners.

"I will go to great lengths to avoid flying now, because padouts make me feel dirty and ashamed," she said. "It just gets worse every time. Now I'm afraid."

The new TSA rules say screeners can select passengers for padouts based on "visual observations," even if they do not set off

metal detectors. Amy Von Walter, a TSA spokeswoman, said screeners are looking for "irregularities in a person's natural shape or contour."

Von Walter said other passengers are selected at random by computer, their boarding passes marked with "SSSS," as in Gagnier's case. In addition, other travelers may get marked "SSSS" because of "passenger behavior," such as paying in cash or frequently buying one-way tickets, according to a TSA official speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The rules stress that passengers can ask to be checked in private and by a screener of their same gender and that screeners must only use the backs of their hands when touching sensitive places.

Gagnier, 46, has filed a complaint with the TSA and is exploring legal action to sue it, she said. She said she has heard from women around the country who object to the searches, many of whom say they are afraid or embarrassed to complain.

"Post-9/11, we have all come to accept a certain level of inconvenience and intrusion," she said. "I will tolerate that."

But you want to touch my body, you better have a damn good reason, and they don't."

## Panel suggests how to deal with global threats in 21st century

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — In a highly awaited report spawned by the deep divide over the war in Iraq, an international panel makes more than 100 recommendations on how to deal with global threats in the 21st century including the use of pre-emptive strikes, according to highlights obtained by The Associated Press.

The report by the 16-member panel, to be released on Thursday, also proposes how to expand the U.N. Security Council to reflect modern realities.

It identifies the threats facing the world today — including internal and external wars, poverty and social upheavals, failed

states, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and organized crime — and proposes ways to deal with them. It also defines terrorism, something the 191-member U.N. General Assembly has tried unsuccessfully to do for years, an official close to the panel said on condition of anonymity.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed the panel a year ago in response to the deep split over the U.S.-led war on Iraq which the Security Council refused to authorize. The U.N. announcement said the debate had "shaken the foundations of collective security and undermined confidence in the possibility of collective responses to our common problems and challenges."

Whether the panel's wide-ranging recommendations attract substantial support remains to be seen. Its members include former prime ministers of Norway and Russia, former foreign ministers of Australia and China, and former U.S. national security adviser Brent Scowcroft.

Annan said he plans to spend his remaining two years as secretary-general focusing on reform of the United Nations and pushing the goals adopted by world leaders at the Millennium Summit in September 2000, including cutting in half the number of people living in dire poverty and ensuring that every child has an education, both by 2015.

The panel, chaired by former Thai Prime Minister Anand Pan-

arachun, could not decide on a single proposal to reform the Security Council so it proposed two options: one from the current 15 members to 24 members. Neither would add any new veto-wielding members.

At least two-thirds of the U.N. member states must approve any reform of the Security Council, which would require changing the U.N. Charter. Also, there can be no veto by any of the five permanent members — the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

One proposal by the panel would add six new permanent members — two from Asia, two from Africa, one from the Americas and one from Europe — as well as three nonpermanent members elected for two-year terms.



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## Gift certificates expanding to all commissaries

By Bonnie Powell  
bonnie.powell@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. — The fifth year of Scholarships for Military Children is now underway. Administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded by the manufacturers and industry supporting commissaries, the program has awarded over \$3 million through nearly 2,000 scholarships to the sons and daughters of active duty service members, Guard and Reserve members, and military retirees.

"The Scholarships for Military Children program has become a major community event for commissaries since its inception five years ago," said Patrick B. Nixon, chief executive officer for the Defense Commissary Agency. "The program awarded 500 scholarships in 2004 and ceremonies were held in commissaries worldwide in honor of these outstanding students. The industry members who support this program should be proud — and we hope the fifth anniversary year will be the best yet!"

Applications for the 2005 program are available at commissaries or online at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>. A link to the program will be on <http://www.commissaries.com>, the DeCA Web site. Eligibility and other information are also available at the program Web site. Applications, which must include an essay on how the heightened awareness of terrorism has impacted the student's life, are due at commissaries

Feb. 16, 2005. At least one \$1,500 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active duty personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current ID card.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2005, or enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

The scholarship program can also accept public donations at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.



## Commissary shopping meets holiday needs — traditional and nutritional

By Rick Brink  
richard.brink@deca.mil

FORT LEE, Va. — The holidays are upon us and the commissary is the place to meet the nutritional as well as traditional needs of its shoppers around the world.

For those who yearn for something other than the traditional feast, the wide variety of products and services offered in commissaries make them ideal places to shop for food — whether it in quantities large enough for a party or ready-to-eat food just for one.

"This is the time of year when our sales peak because people traditionally get together for the holidays and they require food appropriate for the occasions. Commissary product variety and selection suits any occasion, and commissary shoppers buy more for their money because they save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices," said Scott Simpson, DeCA's chief operating officer.

With commissary services, customers don't even have to cook to throw a decent party. Fresh fruit and vegetable party trays, custom-decorated cakes, finger food trays, all kinds of snack items and drinks are available at most stores. The agency's Web site, <http://www.commissaries.com>, makes it easy to find the appropriate department's phone number to place orders.

The wide variety of products sold in commissaries also suits the special dietary needs of many customers. There are low-calorie, low-carb, low-cholesterol — just about any kind of whatever products you can think of — available in stores. Dietary supplements such as vitamins and other nutrients are also available.

Speaking of diet, what about the traditional turkey dinner? According to Kay Blakley, DeCA Europe's consumer advocate, the traditional side dishes like dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, candied sweet potatoes and green bean casserole topped with French fried onions weigh in at between 200 to 300 calories per serving. That's about as many calories as dessert — a slice of pumpkin pie topped with whipped cream.

While that may bring a frown to folks' faces, the good news is that turkey is a real bargain in both calories and cost. A 3-ounce serving of boneless, skinless turkey breast is about 120 calories while a serving of dark turkey meat is about 160 calories, Blakley says.

Her advice for those who want the feast without adding pounds is this: "Remember that it takes an extra 3,500 calories above what you expend to put one pound of weight on your frame. So, get out your calculator and figure out how you'll have to trim consumption in the days ahead to make up for this one glorious meal."

## Wolf hunts resume

**AK** FAIRBANKS — State officials have begun issuing permits for aerial hunters to kill wolves in parts of Alaska in an effort to boost moose and caribou populations.

The first pilot-gunner teams killed four wolves after the Alaska Department of Fish and Game began issuing the permits.

Officials want to cull about 500 wolves in various parts of the state to control their numbers this winter. Alaska's wolf population is estimated at 8,000 to 11,000 and hunters and trappers kill an average of 1,500 a year, officials said.

## Firefighter accused

**FL** JACKSONVILLE — A firefighter was charged with plotting to entrap his chief in a phony rape scheme so his friend could replace him, officials said.

Edward Colleton, 38, was charged with conspiring to commit official misconduct and criminal solicitation. He was jailed on a \$250,000 bail.

Police said Colleton tried to convince a former fire department employee to entice District Fire Chief Alonzo McQueen to have sex with her, then report she was raped.

The woman instead revealed the plot to police.

## Prison party restricted

**NH** CONCORD — There will be no family holiday party this year for prison inmates who don't have young children.

In the past, inmates at some prisons were allowed to invite family members for a cold-cut buffet, a gift exchange and photos with Santa.

Department of Corrections Commissioner Stephen Curry has rejected parties this year to inmates with children younger than 18.

Corrections spokesman Jeff Lyons said the issue is money.

## ACLU supports Web site

**VA** RICHMOND — The American Civil Liberties Union filed court papers in support of a New York man who runs a Web site critical of the Rev. Jerry Falwell.

The Virginia and national ACLU filed a friend-of-the-court brief in the Richmond-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in support of Christopher Lamparello, who runs the Web site fallwell.com.

Falwell, a religious broadcaster based in Lynchburg, sued Lamparello last year in federal court in Alexandria, arguing that Lamparello violated federal trademark law by using a common misspelling of Falwell's name as a domain name. U.S. District Judge Claude Hilton ruled in favor of Falwell, saying the domain name was "nearly identical" to the registered trademark "Jerry Falwell" name and was likely to confuse Web surfers.

## 'Reverse 911' purchased

**TX** AUSTIN — Emergency personnel in Central Texas counties will soon be able to call and notify residents of an emergency.

Using a \$200,000 grant from Homeland Security Department, the Capital Area Council of Govern-

## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ments has bought computer equipment and phone lines for a system often called "reverse 911" that allows emergency personnel to call residents and play a recorded message with instructions in the event of an emergency.

Austin and Round Rock already have the system, which does not ring cell phones.

Council employees said they hope to have the system operational within 12 weeks in Travis, Williamson, Hays, Bastrop, Blanco, Burnet, Caldwell, Fayette, Lee and Llano counties.

## Restaurateurs charged

**NY** NEW YORK — Six restaurant operators — including the owner of a pricey Italian restaurant in Manhattan — have been charged with offering bribes to agents posing as health inspectors, authorities said.

Campagnola Restaurant on First Avenue, where a meal can cost up to \$80 per person, was among the restaurants cited in the Department of Investigation sting. The restaurant's owner, Salvatore Lombardi, 43, allegedly offered agents \$250 to overlook violations including uncovered meat dripping blood onto the floor, the DOI said.

He and the owners of five other establishments in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens had been arraigned on charges of felony brib-

ery and could face up to seven years in prison if convicted, said Emily Gest, a DOI spokeswoman.

The DOI said the largest bribe offered was at Everfresh Joy, where an agent was allegedly offered \$600 after finding meat thawing among dirty dishes in a sink.

## Man kills wife, self

**FL** LAKELAND — A man wife, then shot himself in the head in front of his three young daughters and sheriff's deputies.

Raymond Gans, 27, died a day after turning the gun on himself. The shooting occurred at a roadblock as the deputies approached a van where Gans sat with 3-year-old twins Jordyn and Meikayala, and 1-year-old Bailey.

Gans was trying to flee after killing his wife, authorities said.

The body of Jennifer Jill Gans, 25, was found in a box of her belongings she had tried to retrieve from the home of Raymond Gans' parents, where he had been staying.

## Youths arrested

**PA** READING — Some juveniles believe they are members of an international gang have been arrested for minor offenses in Reading, police Chief Charles R. Broad said, leading to concern that they may commit more serious crimes.

Recent reports of gunshots near Reading High School and an increase in after-school fights there may be linked to the gang known as Mara Salvatrucha, Broad said. He added that gangs that have been around Reading for a longer time commit crimes recklessly in an effort to prove themselves, but he said Mara Salvatrucha is more organized.

## Chicks take flight

**AZ** GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK — Two California condor chicks that were hatched in the wild have successfully taken their inaugural flights, officials said.

This is the second straight year that California condors have hatched and flown since the birds were reintroduced into the wild in Arizona.

Condors, the largest birds in North America with a wingspan of about 9 feet, were driven to near extinction in the 1980s.

## Kentucky 'unbrided'

**KY** SIMPSONVILLE — "Kentucky: Unbrided Spirit" is the state's new name brand.

It was selected from four finalists in Gov. Ernie Fletcher's quest to give the state a fresher marketing slogan. The brand will be seen on government signs, stationery, souvenirs and state advertising.

Fletcher said after the announcement the new slogan was a good choice and one that he voted for personally.

Last month, the administration presented the public with four brand finalists. They were: "Kentucky: Unbrided Spirit," "Kentucky: Limitless," "Kentucky: Where Legends Are Born" and "Kentucky: Make History."

Kentucky residents and nonresidents were asked to vote on the state's new image.



## Not in the Christmas cheer

Mall Santa Joe Kutnyak encounters a crying 6-month-old Madysyn Templeton at Westfield Shoppingtown in Vancouver, Wash.



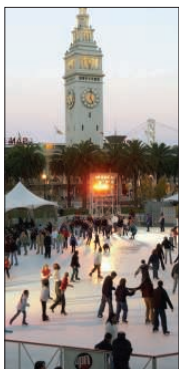
## Snow pie in the face

Justin Randall, 9, is hit with a pile of snow by Dee Dee Lee while taking part in a snowball fight in Burlington, Iowa.



## It's a leaf party!

Children play with leaves in Fort Smith, Ark. From left are J'Lisa Thompson, 10, Brianna Thompson, 6, Maggie West, 8, and Ariel Mosley, 4.



## Sunset ice skating

People skate on an ice rink as the Ferry Building stands in the background at dusk in downtown San Francisco.





## Competitive surfing

Sunny Garcia of Hawaii shreds the lip to win the Vans Hawaiian Pro in Haleiwa, Hawaii.



## Animated school spirit

Shaelena West cheers on the Alaska-Anchorage basketball team during a Great Alaska Shootout game against Furman in Anchorage, Alaska.



## Hold on!

Diego Brisenor rides a plastic skimmer down a snow-covered hill in Cloudcroft, N.M.



## A gloomy ride home

A motorist drives down Sheep Creek Road in Phelan, Calif., as clouds cover a full moon. Mother Nature slowed traffic in the Phelan and Wrightwood area, as well as the nearby Interstate 15 through the Cajon Pass.

## Elevator death

**NY** NEW YORK — A 76-year-old man about to leave for a vacation in the Caribbean died when he fell down an elevator shaft in his Manhattan apartment building, police said.

Edward Helig and his wife were riding the building's freight elevator with their luggage when the elevator stalled between the 14th and 15th floors at about 3 p.m. Sunday, police said.

Helig tried to step out onto the 14th floor but slipped into the shaft instead.

It appeared the elevator stalled because the safety gate had not been closed properly, she said.

## Home blast injures 2

**TX** SAN ANTONIO — An explosion at a Central Texas home has injured two people, authorities say.

The victims were airlifted from the New Braunfels area to Brooke Army Medical Center following the blast. They sustained second- and third-degree burns over 30 percent to 50 percent of their bodies. Their names have not been released.

Neighbors had reported smelling propane in the area recently. New Braunfels Fire Department battalion chief Frank Gonzales told the online edition of the San Antonio Express-News.

## Cargo trains collide

**FL** RICHLAND — Two cargo trains collided head-on in west-central Florida, killing one person and injuring three others, authorities said.

About 10 cars derailed after the collision in Richland, about 25 miles northeast of Tampa, said Kevin Doll, a spokesman for the Pasco County Sheriff's office.

Officials did not immediately know what caused the accident.

## Kids enforce speed limit

**MO** LEE'S SUMMIT — Police officer Jim Dotson is enlisting the help of Prairie View Elementary School students to catch people driving over the speed limit. Students at the suburban Kansas City school use radar guns on oncoming traffic to catch speeders. State and local traffic safety officials say they don't know of any similar programs.

## Stealing from the poor

**PA** ALLENTOWN — A gun-wielding robber swiped a Salvation Army kettle from the front of a supermarket, police said.

Jerlene Howard said that she was ringing her bell to summon shoppers to her kettle in front of Ahart's Market when a man, wearing a scarf over his face, approached with something other than charity on his mind.

"He pulled up in a burgundy car and got out and told me to give him the kettle," Howard said. He "had a gun and he told me not to say anything," she said.

Howard said her kettle was "kind of heavy," but she didn't know exactly how much money was inside.

## Ammonia spill at plant

**IA** WEST LIBERTY — Fumes from an ammonia spill at an eastern Iowa meat-processing plant Sunday forced the evacuation of a three-block area surrounding the plant and made at least five residents ill.

Fire Chief Curt Newcomb said residents from around the West Liberty Foods plant were taken to an Iowa City hospital, but he did not know the severity of the injuries.

The spill at the plant, which employs more than 1,100 workers, was blamed on a mechanical failure in a refrigeration unit, according to a statement from Gerald Lessard, vice president of operations.

The failure was repaired and no meat products were affected, the statement said.

## Deportation confusion

**OR** PORTLAND — A 27-year-old woman from South Africa, who was deported after her American husband died in a car crash, is voluntarily returning to her country to tend to her sick father, further confusing an already entangled immigration battle.

Carla Arabella Freeman was handcuffed, shackled and ordered deported at her immigration hearing in Portland in May, after immigration authorities discovered that she had been married to her husband for only 11 months.

Under immigration law, foreign nationals who are married to U.S. citizens for less than two years automatically lose their right to permanent residence upon their spouses' death.

At least 25 others — almost all widows — are currently embroiled in similar deportation proceedings.

## Domestic violence laws

**NC** RALEIGH — Victims of domestic violence will have more protection from the courts when sweeping changes to state law take effect. New domestic violence provisions create a new crime of assault by strangulation, now a felony. It used to be a misdemeanor. The strangulation offense could bring up to two years in prison for an offender, potentially preventing more attacks in the same relationship, activists said.

## Drive-by kills 7-year-old

**MI** DETROIT — A drive-by gunman fired into a house, killing a 7-year-old girl who was sitting on a couch, police said.

A 38-year-old man was arrested after the shooting.

Family members identified the victim as Diva White. "She never had a chance to enjoy life or spread the love that I know she was going to spread to everyone," said her uncle, Immanuel Daniels.

The shooting grew out of a dispute of some kind, police said.

The girl's grandmother was home at the time; her mother was gone but returned home later.

Police say the suspect told a friend that he had carried out a drive-by shooting and the friend called police, leading to the arrest. Charges were expected to be filed.

Stories and photos from wire services

## FACES

After arriving on Harley motorcycles, Jim Belushi, left, and Dan Aykroyd perform "Sweet Home Chicago" at the new House of Blues in Cleveland on Sunday.



## House of Blues opens in Cleveland

Jim Belushi and Dan Aykroyd arrived on Harley motorcycles and also hammed it up with a performance of "Sweet Home Chicago" at the opening of the newest House of Blues in a renovated storefront in Cleveland.

More than 2,000 people turned out for Sunday night's gala opening. Belushi and Aykroyd arrived wearing black leather coats and escorted Mayor Jane Campbell into the concert and restaurant complex. They also performed as the Blues Brothers, wearing black suits, white shirts, black ties and black fedoras, for the evening's finale, opening their set with "Sweet Home Chicago."

The club has a 1,200-seat performance hall, a 300-seat restaurant and six bars.

Aykroyd is a board member of the House of Blues, which also operates clubs in seven other cities. Belushi's brother, John, was a co-founder of the Blues Brothers.

## 'Wind' is tops in British film poll

"Gone With the Wind," the American Civil War saga starring Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh, is the most-watched movie in British history, according to the British Film Institute.

Some 35 million people have seen "Gone With the Wind" since its release in Britain in 1940, according to a tally of movie tickets sales, the institute said Sunday.

"The Sound of Music" is in the No. 2 spot with an estimated 30 million tickets sold since its release in 1965, followed by "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," released in 1938 and seen by 28 million people, and George Lucas' "Star Wars," released in Britain in 1978, with 20.7 million tickets sold.

One-third of the films in the top 100 are British, led by the 1948 romantic comedy, "Spring in Park Lane," which is in fifth place with 20.5 million tickets sold.

## Spielberg's 'Worlds' to shoot in Virginia

Scenes for the Martian-invasion film "War of the Worlds," directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Tom Cruise, will be shot in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, according to an area tourism official.

Jean Clark, tourism director for the Rockbridge County area, said she doesn't know exactly when or where the movie will be shot in the valley. But, "I know they're shooting something," she said.

Clark expects filming in the area will wrap up before the year's end.

Movie publicist Deborah Wuliger said filming is now taking place in New Jersey, and industry publication Variety reported that Spielberg is also shooting scenes in upstate New York.

Paramount Pictures and DreamWorks are financing the movie, a modern version of the H.G. Wells novel. It is scheduled for release next summer.



Spielberg

## Magician Penn marries girlfriend

Magician Penn Jillette married his girlfriend during an impromptu ceremony at a Las Vegas wedding chapel, his spokesman said Monday.

Jillette, 49, the speaking half of the Penn & Teller duo, tied the knot with Emily Zolten, 38, a television producer on Nov. 23, according to the marriage license.

## Country singer pleads guilty

Mindy McCready, who had a No. 1 hit in 1996 with "Guys Do It All the Time," pleaded guilty Monday to purchasing painkillers with a false prescription.

The country singer was fined \$4,000, sentenced to three years of supervised probation and ordered to perform 200 hours of community service.

McCready, who turned 29 Tuesday, was accused of fraudulently obtaining OxyContin at a Brentwood, Tenn., pharmacy in February.

Stories and photos from the Associated Press



PAX TV

Comedienne Elaine Boosler finds her sense of humor is fine-tuned while she hosts PAX-TV's "Balderdash"

# Hitting the funny spot

## After 25 years of hard work, Elaine Boosler finds stand-up jokes coming easier

BY LUIAINE LEE

Scripps Howard News Service

Comedienne Elaine Boosler says she finally figured out the trick to being funny.

"It took me 25 years to find out, 'Oh, I've finally hit the spot, the Zen spot where I can't fail,'" she says.

"It's very interesting. For 25 years, I could've had a few errors and been benched. I didn't have this formula for kidding, this little spot that no matter what it is, I know they got the show. There's just a spot."

Though Boosler knew she had a cockeyed way of viewing the world, she wasn't always good at expressing it through her comedy.

"I never thought ... that I couldn't do it. The 25 years it was just more of a roller coaster. Now it's like being Teflon. I never had bad shows, but it took more work. Now it's just, 'C'mon, let it fly!'"

Boosler plies that expertise in her latest job as the antic host of PAX TV's game show, "Balderdash."

She corals three celebrity comics who feed phony answers to two contestants. The winner is the combatant who doesn't buy the balderdash.

The show is a means to an end for Boosler, the end always being standup.

"Nothing has been as much fun as stand-up and this (show) comes close, because

it's literally like hanging out with comedians after the show in a coffee shop, because it's unscripted. So's spontaneous, and that's what I love about it," she says.

Boosler, 52, claims she wasn't a class cut-up at school because she was a class cut-out.

"I probably would've gotten in trouble at school if I'd gone, but I wisely stayed out. I think one time I got a report card, and it had how many days absent. It said, 'One hun-

dred and four days absent.' So I erased the 100 and made it four. My dad said, 'You were absent four days? You're going to be in big trouble.' I thought, 'Oh, dear.'

"In those days they had what was called a general diploma as opposed to an academic diploma. It means they saw you once or twice. 'We need the seat.' That's what I got."

When she struck out on her own at 18, she thought she might be a singer.

But comedian Andy Kaufman scotched that idea. He encouraged her to go on stage one night and "just talk." She tried it and has been doing that ever since.

She credits Kaufman "the love of my life, my guru, my teacher, my everything," with giving her the confidence to go on. She and Kaufman lived together for three years and remained good friends afterward.

"Somehow he showed up at every club at every city at my worst time," she says.

"I'd be onstage dying in Fargo, North Dakota, and I'd hear Andy Kaufman out of the dark, say, 'Talk about your mother.' It was, 'Oh my God, how did he know I was here?' It was like having Tinkerbell."

When Kaufman died, her life changed, she says.

"Andy's death made me fearless and made me realize that time was finite. And it's the reason I did my first special with the three cents I had in the bank when nobody wanted me. I had nine cents and did this special, and they still didn't buy it because they said, 'We can't put a woman on for an hour,'" she says, shaking her head.

"I was in debt up to my — and had this beautiful home movie on my shelf. I went on the road to pay everybody off and always knew if younger, hipper people came in (to the network) the show would sell. And after a year, younger, hipper people came in and they said, 'This is great.'

"His death shot me into action and confidence so that was one more thing he gave me after he was gone."

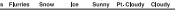
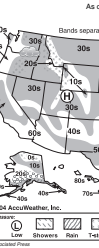
*"It's literally like hanging out with comedians after the show in a coffee shop, because it's unscripted. It's so spontaneous, and that's what I love about it."*

Elaine Boosler

"Balderdash" game show host









# Horoscope

There are no exact aspects to speak of in the heavens today, and that is, in and of itself, remarkable. It's an opportunity for viewing a million shades of gray in the spectrum between black and white. Since we can never really know what it's like to experience life as someone else, extending the benefit of the doubt is the natural thing to do.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (December 1).** This year finally highlights an under-rated area of your life — fun and recreation.

Social breakthroughs in the next five weeks get you participating in new circles and interests. Dates and business contacts spring from your playtime. Sock away some of the extra money you make for travel in the spring. Long love is featured with Pisces and Aries.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** You and a colleague have substantial differences, but you cannot deny your admiration. Be sure to acknowledge others for their contributions, and your way is made easier. To-night, challenge someone to take action.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20).**

The world is not black and white. But you do need to make choices in life, and sometimes, the choices have obvious consequences. Denial, stalling yourself to the minutiae will make doing what you have to do easier.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You'll be in a position to say something meaningful. Choosing the exact right words will be key. Otherwise, your subjects miss the point. At work, do your research, and make sure you're not raising a moot point.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** But you've got it better. Admire it! Praise it! Cherish it! Avoid thinking about the great job/date/partner you didn't get. There will always be another better job/date/partner that you don't have.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** A contribution you'd like to make may feel very, very small indeed. You may even be embarrassed and

therefore tempted to not even bother to do it. But do it anyway. Small gestures are what make your character so remarkable.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).**

The step you've been thinking of taking can be achieved. Look hard at your beliefs about money. The fastest way to improve your income is to seek work that gives you a greater sense of purpose.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** You're a fair leader, but your leadership will be challenged.

You'll be dealing with a strong-willed significant other, stepchild or parent. Gain control of your emotions, and keep your focus on the problem at hand.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Other people's dreams seem outrageous, but don't laugh — and if anyone else laughs, spring to the dreamer's defense. People who don't have dreams don't have much. By the end of the day, you'll believe in love at first sight.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You know those questions you've been asking other people? Well, it's time to pose the same questions to yourself. You may just be surprised how smart you can be when talking to an intellectual equal.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Keep fun on the to-do list, and don't let it take the bottom slot. In fact, what do you think would happen if you put fun first? You just might wind up enjoying your work so much that you've never been so productive in your life.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** What you're aiming for should be obvious to everyone around you, and, of course, to yourself. Verbalize your goal. You may have to futz with the wording or the trust of it for a while until it's perfectly clear to everyone.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** Your partner's needs and your own could polarize now. Stay calm. The stars nurture your thought processes and help you tap into your unconscious mind for solutions. Also, a Libra can help you find the compromise.

Creators Syndicate

## Holiday Mathis



## Calvin and Hobbes



## Jump Start



## Zits



## Cathy



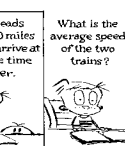
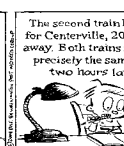
## Hi and Lois



## Beetle Bailey



## Red and Rover



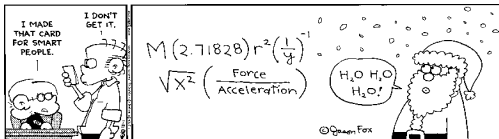
## Better or Worse



## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



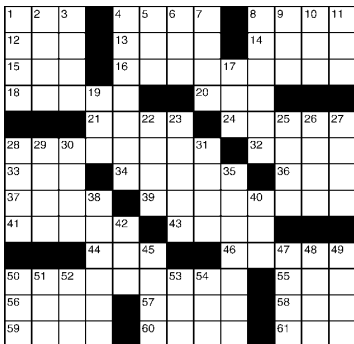
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 Vacationing  
4 "Take — Train"  
8 Cronos  
12 One of the gang  
13 Gets greedy with  
14 Bread spread  
15 Oklahoma city  
16 Bad thing to be behind  
18 Clark's companion  
20 Longing  
21 Practice pugilism  
24 Famous  
28 Unfaithful one  
32 Expose  
33 Fine, to NASA  
34 Arias, e.g.  
36 Ad —  
37 — a-brac  
39 Beer buys  
41 Daub  
43 Blue hue  
44 Cattle call  
46 Hyper personality  
50 Sports-page announcement  
55 Stirrup's locale  
56 Loud lamentation  
58 Performance  
59 Probability  
60 Luminary  
61 Reticent

- 2 Gradually disappear  
3 Imperfection  
4 Ancient Greek poet  
5 Polloi predecessor  
6 Early bird?  
7 Wan  
8 Rub elbows (with)  
9 Carte lead-in  
10 Solidify  
11 Fa-la link  
17 X rating  
19 Practitioner (Suft.)  
22 Old Testament prophet  
23 Archaeologist's find  
25 Bath powder  
26 Cart Estrada  
27 Socialist Eugene  
28 Surveillance  
29 Dennis Rodman nickname  
30 Tom Joad, e.g.  
31 Theater name of old  
35 Splash everywhere  
38 Caravan pack  
40 Whatever amount  
42 Caviar  
45 Makes a decision  
47 Pod dwellers  
48 Apiece  
49 Bohemian  
50 Seesaw quorum  
51 Swindled  
52 Discumber  
53 Nosh  
54 "I — Camera"

## Answer to Previous Puzzle



## Down

1 October stone

## 12-1

## CRYPTOQUIP

HVCHJOX LSPCSZXXZ GSDIX  
PUZV AJ DVVK HIJZZ  
LUPNJOZ XIJN'OJ AVXI

DOPCK GPZXJQZ  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: DO INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE REMOVING APPLE CENTERS CONSIDER THEMSELVES A CORE GROUP?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equal S

# Someone lying in messy mystery

**Dear Abby:** My name is "Lenny" and I live in Florida. About six weeks ago, my girlfriend, "Jill," and I broke up.

Jill is 20 and I am 41. She was adopted by her parents as an infant.

Jill and her folks moved to Illinois, but we talk on the phone at least three times a week. I proposed marriage, but Jill said she couldn't make the decision without her father's approval. Her mother was all for it; her father was not.

Jill says that when her parents adopted her, her father had a clause in the contract that he had the right to choose the man she was to marry — and it was signed by a judge in the state of Illinois. Is this legal?

**Dear Frustrated:** No, it's not. Either Jill is lying to you, or

someone is lying to her.

**Dear Abby:** I have eight siblings. I am the only one who is still single. My brothers and sisters are upstanding members of their communities, happily

married and raising beautiful families. Until a few years ago, we all got together for the holidays. Now that the children are here — 20 at last count — my sis prefers to spend the holidays in their own homes with their families. We get together a couple of weeks before Christmas to exchange gifts.

I'd love to spend the day with family, and I'm hoping they will see this letter and think of me.

— **All Alone in Maryland**  
**Dear All Alone:** And what if they happen to be too busy to read the column today? Your siblings aren't mind readers, so

**Dear Abby**



## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**MEWNO**

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**SQUET**

**NESING**

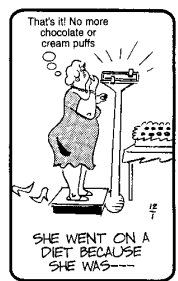
**BOCIXE**

www.jumble.com

Answers: " " ON " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: KETCH CRAFT TYCOON RATHER Answer: What the landlord did when the furnace failed — TOOK THE HEAT

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

# Family abuse revelation shocking

**Dear Annie:** Do you think ostriches are emotionally healthy? I ask because I want to hide my head in a hole.

I came from a family with five adult children. Dad passed away a few years back, and as I write this, Mom has been in the hospital for a month. Her hospitalization has caused an awkward reunification of the siblings.

During a lengthy phone call with my younger sister, she revealed that she and my youngest brother were repeatedly sexually abused by my oldest brother. Although I urged her to seek professional help, I am having difficulty digesting this 40-year-old information.

My relationship with my oldest brother hasn't been good for years.

(He was a Vietnam vet, and I was a war protester.) Still, I always respected and looked up to him. Now, I feel the big brother I once loved is a slum.

I live in another state with a wonderful husband and two great

**Annie's Mailbox**



children. I want to wash my hands of the lot of my siblings and the dirty family secrets they have kept. My mother, however, wants her family around her. I don't think she is aware of my brother's incestuous behavior, and if she did know, I suspect she put it away somewhere deep in the recesses of her memory.

Should I keep up appearances until my mother passes on (which could be in 10 years or 10 minutes)? This goes against every grain of my being. Should I confront my brother?

— **Disillusioned Sister**  
**Dear Sister:** If you are 100 percent certain that your sister's accusations are true, you should confront your brother. But don't blame your other siblings for what happened. It is unfair to estrange them all because you are angry with one. And it would be self-serving and hurtful to create a family rift while your mother is hospitalized.

**Dear Annie:** I would like to comment on your advice to "Freakin' Out in Philly," who resented that her parents left the family business to her brothers.

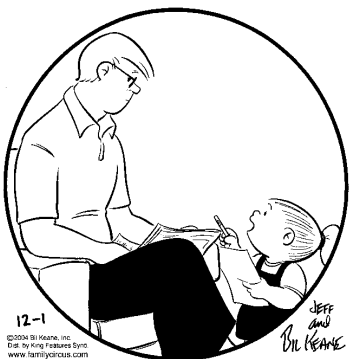
She sounds like a victim of her own making. If the sisters really want a piece of the business, why don't they act like businesswomen and approach their brothers about investing or becoming partners, instead of harassing their elderly parents about fairness? Parents often base such decisions on who they think would be most likely to carry on the business in the spirit in which it was created. Obviously, the sons are doing a good job if their wives and children are bragging about "living the good life." This woman needs to find a way to respect her parents' decision.

— **Wife of an Inheritor**  
**Dear Wife:** Your perspective has merit. Thanks for writing.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

## Family Circus



"A, E, I, O and U are vowels and the other letters are continents."

## GRAFFITI

SECOND MARRIAGE HOPE OVER EXPERIENCE

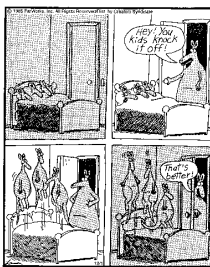
MGA 12/1

Domis the Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur









# Clemson, S. Carolina players suspended

BY JACOB JORDAN

The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Six Clemson players and six South Carolina players were suspended one game by their conferences Monday for brawling during a game between the in-state rivals Nov. 20.

The Atlantic Coast Conference and Southeastern Conference handed down the punishment.

"The actions of these suspended student-athletes violate the letter and spirit of the SEC and NCAA rules and regulations of sportsmanlike conduct," SEC commissioner Mike Slive said. "These suspensions are intended to send a clear and unequivocal message to all student-athletes in the Southeastern Conference that this conduct will not be tolerated now or in the future."

Both schools declined bowl invitations last week as punishment for their teams.

Clemson's Duane Coleman, Nathan Bennett, Brandon Cannon, Roman Fry, Mat-

rice Nelson and Anthony Waters were suspended. Four other Clemson players will receive letters of reprimand: Cory Groover, Tommy Sharpe, Kent Watkins and Bobby Williamson.

It will be up to the team to decide when the players will serve their suspensions. The Tigers open the season against Texas A&M on Sept. 3.

"There is no justification for the allegations that took place," Clemson coach Tommy Bowden said in his first public comments since the schools declined bowl bids. "I am disappointed in the actions of some of our players, but 90 percent of them either stayed out of it or tried to break it up."

The ACC also said senior tailback Yusuf Kelley, seen kicking a South Carolina player who lay face-down with his helmet off, would have been suspended but does not have any eligibility remaining.

ACC commissioner John Swofford commended Clemson for its immediate action

last week. The conference said it did a thorough review of video footage before handing out the suspensions.

"The ACC is compelled to take this action because of the nature and seriousness of the situation," Swofford said. "What took place in the South Carolina-Clemson game has no place in college football or any other sporting event."

For South Carolina, Decatur Torman, Jermaine Sims, Freddy Saint-Prix, Woods Telford, Moe Thompson and Charles Sims must sit out the season-opener against Central Florida on Sept. 3.

The SEC also said three other players — Matthew Thomas, Taqiy Muhammad and Jamacia Jackson — would have been suspended if they had any eligibility remaining.

South Carolina's Thompson said Monday night the team learned of the discipline at a meeting with new coach Steve Spurrier.

"I try not to look back at it because it's

very frustrating," said Thompson, a defensive end.

Spurrier said he didn't think he'd tack on additional penalties for the Gamecocks involved.

The brawl broke out about six minutes left in the game as it started when Tigers defensive lineman Bobby Williamson took down South Carolina quarterback Syvelle Newton and appeared to linger too long on top of him.

The Gamecock offensive lineman Chris White came to Newton's defense, and eventually both sidelines cleared.

South Carolina coach Lou Holtz, in his last game after 33 seasons, and Bowden tried to break up the brawl, but the fight stretched nearly 60 yards along the field.

The suspended Clemson players issued a collective statement.

"We realize there is no place for fighting in college athletics and we accept the suspensions," the statement said. "We apologize to any Clemson fans who see college football fan who was embarrassed by what happened."

## Baseball's free agents get back to business

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Damian Miller's \$8.75 million, three-year contract was finalized by the Milwaukee Brewers and Doug Mirabelli became the first of Boston's 16 free agents to re-sign, agreeing to a \$3 million, two-year deal Monday.

As the free-agent market resumed following the Thanksgiving weekend break, Gary Bennett was the third catcher to sign off on a deal, agreeing to a \$750,000, one-year contract with the soon-to-be Washington Nationals.

And the New York Yankees neared agreement on a contract with backup catcher John Flaherty.

Left-handed pitcher Denny Reyes agreed to a \$550,000, one-year contract with the San Diego Padres, who last week reached an agreement with right-hander Rudy Seanez for the same amount.

While the top and middle of the market awaits the Dec. 7 deadline for teams to offer salary arbitration to their former players who became free agents, players with lower profiles are signing.

Miller's deal was agreed to last Tuesday, and he took a physical the following day. But the Brewers put off completing the agreement because they couldn't find any of their team physicians to read the MRI exam results ahead of the holiday weekend.

"We were getting all the information together to a level we feel comfortable with and we feel fine about it now," general manager Doug Mientkiewicz said. "It was just due diligence. We had to get a second opinion on some things."

Miller gets \$3.25 million in each of the next two seasons, and Milwaukee has a \$7.5 million option for 2007. If the Brewers decline it, Miller would get a \$2.25 million player option and the

chance, if he exercises it, to earn \$750,000 more in performance bonuses.

Miller, 35, grew up in La Crosse. He hit 272 with nine homers and a career-high 58 RBIs in 110 games for Oakland last season, including 224 with runners in scoring position and 412 with the bases loaded.

Mirabelli will earn a \$200,000 signing bonus and \$1.4 million in each of the next two seasons under his contract with the World Series champions. Mirabelli made \$825,000 last season, when he batted 281 with nine homers and 20 RBIs in 75 games for Milwaukee's regular catcher for knuckleballer Tim Lincecum.

Bennett, 32, fulfills the need for a backup to Brian Schneider on the Expos, who will become the Nationals once baseball owners approve the proposed move. Bennett hit 224 with three home runs and 20 RBIs in 75 games for Milwaukee last year. He's a career 247 hitter in nine seasons with Philadelphia, the New York Mets, Colorado, San Diego and Milwaukee.

Bennett's best season came with San Diego in 2003, when he had 42 RBIs in 96 games.

Reyes was 4-8 with a 4.75 ERA in 40 games in 2003. He made 127 starts last season, including 12 starts.

Flaherty hit 252 in 127 at-bats but was the key to several New York wins, hitting six homers and driving in 16 runs. He made \$775,000 and his new deal was likely to be for a salary between that and \$1 million.

Second baseman Miguel Cairo, left-hander represented by agent Alan Nervo, also hopes to re-sign with the Yankees. "We're in the process of exchanging ideas. With Flaherty, we've got only a couple of items left," Nervo said. "It's nothing more than with John, we started earlier."

## Cycling's Hamilton gets fired

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Olympic gold medalist Tyler Hamilton's pro cycling team fired him after he failed doping tests, the sport's world governing body said Tuesday.

The International Cycling Union (UCI), based in Aigle, Switzerland, said the Phönix team told it the American rider's contract was terminated last week.

Phönix was refused a racing license Tuesday by the UCI, prohibiting it from competing in the Tour de France and other elite events. Phönix told UCI about Hamilton's status while the group was considering whether to renew the license.

Phönix team officials did not immediately return calls and Hamilton could not immediately be reached for comment.

In a posting on his Web site last Thursday, he didn't mention losing his spot with Phönix. His contract was scheduled to expire in December 2005.

Hamilton, a native of Marblehead, Mass., first tested positive for blood doping after winning the time trial at the Athens Olympics in August. But the case was dropped after his backup sample was frozen, leaving too few red blood cells to analyze.

Hamilton tested positive again for an illegal blood transfusion at the Spanish Vuelta in September, with both samples confirming the result. He faces a possible two-year ban in that case.

Hamilton insists he is innocent and has vowed to clear his name, while Phönix has questioned the testing system used to detect blood doping.

UCI did not give its reasons for refusing four-year licenses to Phönix and two other teams — France's AG2R and Mr. Bookmaker's Palmans of Belgium. All teams can appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

### U.S. opens final round of World Cup qualifying at Trinidad

ZURICH, Switzerland — The United States opens the final round of 2006 World Cup qualifying with games at Trinidad and Tobago in February and at Mexico in March.

The Americans, trying to reach their fifth consecutive World Cup, close out the 10-game final round of the North and Central American and Caribbean region in October at home against Panama.

The top three teams in the six-nation group qualifying for the 42-country field for the World Cup tournament in Germany. The fourth-place team will play the No. 5 nation in Asia in a home-and-home playoff for another berth.

The United States, which won its four-nation semifinal group, opens the last round of qualifying at Trinidad and Tobago on Feb. 9, according to the draw conducted Tuesday by FIFA, soccer's governing body.

### Sports briefs

#### Bradley charged with disorderly conduct

COPELY, Ohio — Los Angeles Dodgers outfielder Milton Bradley is in trouble again, this time charged with disorderly conduct after interfering with a traffic stop near Akron.

Bradley, known for an inability to control his temper, was charged after police stopped a woman for weaving on Thursday. Police say Bradley, who was driving another car ahead of the woman, stopped on an exit ramp and walked on the side of the highway until he reached the traffic stop.

"He started screaming to the officer something to the effect of, 'Why are you stopping my friend?'" Copely Township Police Chief Michael Meri said Monday. "The officer had to tell him several times to return to his vehicle, and he refused to do so."

At one point, Meri said, Bradley put his hands behind his back and "said 'go ahead and arrest me.'"

The officer did, and charged Bradley with the fourth-degree misdemeanor. He was not held but was issued a summons to appear Friday in Barberton Municipal Court. If convicted, Bradley could be sentenced from no jail time up to 30 days, and a maximum fine of \$250.

The woman, identified only as a friend of Bradley's, was not charged and allowed to leave, Meri said.

#### NHL commissioner reiterates league's stand against luxury tax

EDMONTON, Alberta — NHL commissioner Gary Bettman reiterated the league's position that it won't consider the players' proposed luxury tax. "They claim that will fix our problems, I'm here to tell you today . . . that a luxury tax will not work and it will create a potential for future disaster in the NHL," Bettman said Tuesday at an Edmonton Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

Bettman also reiterated that the owners don't have a drop-dead date for when they would have to pull the plug on the 2004-05 season.

The NHL and NHLPA haven't had a formal collective bargaining session since Sept. 9 in Toronto, when the league officially rejected the union's luxury tax-based proposal.

The league has said it doesn't believe in a luxury tax because it doesn't guarantee cost certainty.

#### Phelps' trial set for Dec. 29

SALISBURY, Md. — Michael Phelps' drunken driving trial was set for Dec. 29.

Phelps, 19, the Olympic swimming champion, was stopped by a state trooper on Nov. 4 for running a stop sign in Salisbury.

Among charges against Phelps were driving under the influence of alcohol and driving while impaired.

## Bowl glance

## Bowl games

Tuesday, Dec. 14	New Orleans Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
North Texas (7-4) vs. Southern Miss. (6-4)		
Tuesday, Dec. 21	Chang's Sports Bowl	Payoff: \$500,000
ACC vs. Big 12		
Wednesday, Dec. 22	GMAC Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
Memphis (9-3) vs. MAC vs. WAC		
Tuesday, Dec. 23	Fort Worth (Texas) Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
Cincinnati (6-5) vs. Big 12		
MWC No. 2 vs. Pac-10 No. 4/5		
Friday, Dec. 24	Hawaii Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
UAB (7-4) vs. SEC		
Monday, Dec. 27	MPC Computers Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
At Boise, Idaho		
WAC vs. ACC No. 5		
Motor City Bowl		
At Pontiac, Mich.		
Payoff: \$750,000		
MAC vs. Big 12		
Tuesday, Dec. 28	Independence Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
At Shreveport, La.		
Payoff: \$1.2 million		
Big 12 vs. SEC		
Insight Bowl		
At Phoenix		
Payoff: \$750,000		
Wednesday, Dec. 29	Houston Bowl	Payoff: \$1.1 million
Pac-10 No. 4/5 vs. Notre Dame (6-5)		
Alamo Bowl		
At San Antonio		
Payoff: \$1.5 million		
Ohio State (7-4) vs. Big 12 No. 4		
Thursday, Dec. 30	Continental Tire Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
Big East No. 4/5 vs. North Carolina (5-5)		
Emerald Bowl		
At San Francisco		
Payoff: \$750,000		
MWC No. 3 vs. SEC		
Holiday Bowl		
At San Diego		
Payoff: \$2 million		
Pac-10 No. 2 vs. Big 12 No. 3		
Sierra Valley Classic		
At San Jose, Calif.		
Payoff: \$750,000		
WAC vs. MAC		
Friday, Dec. 31	Musica City Bowl	Payoff: \$750,000
At Nashville, Tenn.		
SEC vs. Minnesota (5-5)		
San Bowl		
At El Paso, Texas		
Payoff: \$1.5 million		
Purdue (4-7) vs. Pac-10 No. 5		
Liberty Bowl		
At Memphis, Tenn.		
Payoff: \$1.5 million		
MWC champion or TBA vs. Louisville (9-1)		
Peach Bowl		
Payoff: \$2.2 million		
ACC No. 3 vs. SEC No. 1		
Saturday, Jan. 1	Cotton Bowl	Payoff: \$1.4 million
At Dallas		
SEC vs. Big 12 No. 2		
Outback Bowl		
At Tampa, Fla.		
Payoff: \$2.5 million		
Wisconsin (9-2) vs. SEC No. 2		
Gator Bowl		
At Jacksonville, Fla.		
Payoff: \$1.6 million		
ACC No. 2 vs. West Virginia (5-3)		
Capital One Bowl		
At Orlando, Fla.		
Payoff: \$3.187 million		
Iowa (9-2) vs. SEC		
Rose Bowl		
At Pasadena, Calif.		
Payoff: \$4.45 million		
Michigan (9-2) vs. Pac-10 champion or TBA		
Fiesta Bowl		
At Tempe, Ariz.		
Payoff: \$1.14 million		
BCS vs. BCS		
Monday, Jan. 3	Sugar Bowl	Payoff: \$1.4 million
At New Orleans		
BCS vs. BCS		
Tuesday, Jan. 4	Orange Bowl	Payoff: \$1.14 million
BCS I vs. BCS2		

## Play the



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# ACC title game has Big East flavor

## Va. Tech visits longtime rival Miami for berth in Sugar Bowl

BY TIM REYNOLDS

The Associated Press

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — After years of battling for supremacy in the Big East, Miami and Virginia Tech will do the same in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

In their first meeting as ACC rivals, the Hokies and Hurricanes will play Saturday with a conference title and Bowl Championship Series bid on the line.

No. 10 Virginia Tech (9-2, 6-1) will claim the outright ACC title if it beats Miami for the second straight year; the Hokies eased past the Hurricanes 31-7 last year in Blacksburg, Va.

If No. 9 Miami (8-2, 5-2) wins, it'll finish in a three-way tie atop the league with the Hokies and Florida State — which would have at least a share of the ACC title for the 12th year in 13 years. The Seminoles are headed to the Gator Bowl to play West Virginia. Miami, though, would be cer-



Virginia Tech's Josh Hyman (19) fends off Virginia's Jermaine Hardy (36) during the Hokies' 24-10 victory Saturday at Blacksburg.

tain to end the year as the conference's highest-ranked team in the BCS standings, winning the league's tiebreaker.

"It's pretty cool that it comes down to us," Miami quarterback Brock Berlin said. "We were at the ACC meetings and everybody was saying 'You guys are the new guys, you guys don't know if you can play with us.' Well, we kind of showed everybody that we can

play in this league and we were meant to be here. It's a credit to both universities."

Miami and Virginia Tech were unquestionably the Big East's two best football drawing cards, and quickly established themselves as part of the ACC's highest level.

Miami (53) and Virginia Tech (three) won nine Big East football titles in 12 years. The teams ranked 1-2 in winning percentage

among Big East schools, and were the only members of that conference to play for the national title; Miami had championship years in 1991 and 2001; Virginia Tech lost the 1999 championship game to Florida State.

Neither will play in the BCS title game this year, but winning an ACC crown would be a nifty consolation prize.

"I'm glad that we've had the success that we've had and demonstrated that we're going to be a good member for the ACC," Virginia Tech coach Frank Beamer said. "I'm pleased about that. And I think the ACC is a great, great league. It just so happens that Miami and us are the two this time around at the very end."

Miami had last week off; Virginia Tech had Saturday off. On Saturday, Miami also had a bye last year before the showdown with the Hokies, and Beamer's team decisively beat them.

Still, Beamer wouldn't have necessarily minded a little more rest between the Virginia and Miami matchups.

"This week, I wish it was like a championship game and we might have two weeks to get ready for it," Beamer said. "That'd certainly be helpful to us. It is what it is, so we've got to prepare fast and get ready to play a tremendously important football game."

# BCS shutdown has Pitt feeling festive

BY ALAN ROBINSON

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Don't let the Pitt Panthers' record be a perfect example of what's wrong with the BCS system.

Consecutive wins over ranked-at-the-time Notre Dame and West Virginia yielded the Panthers (7-3) to No. 19, and they will get the Big East Conference's automatic BCS bowl bid if they beat South Florida (4-6) in Tampa on Saturday.

Three-loss teams with no victories over Top 10 opponents aren't supposed to be in the running for one of the BCS' \$14 million to \$17 million paydays, especially when quality teams such as No. 6 Texas (10-1) and No. 7 Louisville (9-1) are being left out.

Just don't ask the Panthers to apologize for winning, especially when they're doing so with a lineup that includes just six seniors — a year after they went 8-5 with a dead, experienced team led by Heisman Trophy runner Larry Fitzgerald.

When Pitt was 2-2 and apparently going no-

where, Harris said he felt the Panthers had the makings of being special. But, realistically, he probably didn't think a team that could barely beat Division I-AA Furman or Big East tailender Temple might wind up playing No. 5 Utah in the Fiesta Bowl — currently, the Panthers' most likely bowl matchup.

"I'm one of those guys who feels strongly about what we do, almost to a fault," Harris said Monday. "Our challenge was to get them to believe, and to execute."

Harris also took an apparent shot at those who felt the Panthers failed to recruit well in recent years, saying they are winning with players "nobody knew about or believed in except for our staff."

If nothing else, whatever bowl series for the Panthers will be getting one of college football's more exciting teams. Sophomore quarterback Tyler Palko has engineered five comeback victories in the fourth quarter or overtime, a remarkable performance for a player who has started only 10 college games.

An 8-3 regular season would also be the

school's best since coach Mike Gottfried's second Pitt team went 8-3 in 1987 before losing to Texas in the Bluebonnet Bowl.

"You live to play in big games, big-money games and we as a team have a chance to do something special. A win puts us at 8-3 — a record [like when] the big guys played here," Palko said, a reference to the early 1980s teams led by Dan Marino.

Palko promised the Panthers won't take their foot off the accelerator against South Florida, which upset Pitt 35-26 on Sept. 8, 2001, for the Bulls' first victory against an established Division I-AA program. The upset loss was one of the biggest in Pitt's history, and ranks as perhaps the low mark of Harris' eight seasons at the school.

The Panthers will probably get the Big East's BCS bid over Syracuse (6-5) even if they lose, but neither Harris nor Palko wants to hear that.

"We need to take care of business. We're not going to hold anything back," Palko said. "This is going to be an intense week. We don't have to rely on anyone else, we don't want to have to wait around to figure it out."

# Peach Bowl officials want to lure the Gators

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Peach Bowl wants Florida to play in the Dec. 31 game — and hopes Ron Zook will hang around to coach the Gators for a few more weeks.

Bowl president Gary Stokan said Tuesday that the selection committee voted for Florida over Alabama as its choice from the Southeastern Conference, assuming the Gators are available.

There's one caveat: An Auburn loss in the SEC championship game could force the Peach Bowl to go in a different direction.

Even so, the Peach Bowl is not expected to formally announce Florida as one of its teams until after Saturday's SEC title game between

## Bowl game briefs

the Tigers and Tennessee. No. 20 Florida (7-4) is expected to play the loser of Saturday's Miami-Virginia Tech game. The winner will get the Atlantic Coast Conference Series.

Zook was fired last month but agreed to finish his third season. Florida closed with three straight victories under its lame-duck coach, including a road victory over Florida State, the Gators' first in Tallahassee since 1986.

Zook hasn't said whether he will coach in a bowl game.

Alabama (6-5) is expected to play in the

Musica City Bowl.

The Gator Bowl has the second pick among ACC schools and planned to invite Florida on Tuesday. The Seminoles will meet West Virginia.

## GA. Tech heading to Champs Sports Bowl

Atlanta — Georgia Tech finally will play in a bowl that's not too far from home.

After being sent out West for three straight years, the Yellow Jackets (6-5) formally accepted an invitation to the Champs Sports Bowl in Orlando, Fla., on Tuesday.

The Champs Sports Bowl, formerly known as the Tangerine, will match Georgia Tech against a team from the Big 12.

# No. 2 Kansas doesn't fall into same trap vs. Nevada

The Associated Press

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kansas got a big lead in a victory and made sure Nevada couldn't repeat last year's upset.

Wayne Simien had 14 points and 10 rebounds for his third double-double in as many games, and the second-ranked Jayhawks opened with a 19-4 run Monday night on the way to an 85-52 victory.

## Men's Top 25 roundup

Kansas (3-0) led 43-16 at halftime and was up by as many as 39 points.

"I thought our defense was pretty good," Jayhawks coach Bill Self said. "I thought the whole team played sluggish in the second half, which is to be expected. We still have to learn to put our foot on the throat."

Nevada beat then-No. 6 Kansas 75-61 last year, an early highlight in a season in which the Wolf Pack went on to win the Western Athletic Conference, reach the round of 16 in the NCAA tournament and finish 25-9.

"Coach brought the old clips when they smacked us pretty good and the fans stormed the court," Simien said. "He did it to motivate us. I think it did that."

Nick Fazekas, the Wolf Pack's leading scorer with a 23.3 average, was harassed by Christian Moody into 1-for-9 shooting in the first half and finished with 17 points.

"We are just young," first-year Nevada coach Mark Fox said. "We just couldn't execute our offense against their pressure defense."

Fox was promoted to replace Trent Johnson, who took over the Stanford program.

**No. 6 Oklahoma St. 76, SMU 57:** John Lucas scored 24 points to lead the Cowboys (4-0) as coach Eddie Sutton won for the 79th time, tying him for eighth place on the Division I career list with Ed Diddle.

Lucas scored 11 points as visiting Oklahoma State took control in the first half with a 17-4 run.



Kansas forward Wayne Simien (23) looks for the basket after getting past Nevada forward Kevin Pinkney (21) during the first half at Allen Fieldhouse in Lawrence, Kan., on Monday, Jan. 25, 2005.

Patrick Simpson had 20 points for SMU (2-1), which lost for the first time under coach Jimmy Tubbs.

**No. 16 N.C. State 60, Purdue 53:** Julius Hodge had 22 points, eight rebounds and five assists to lead the Wolfpack to the home win on the opening night of the ACC-Big Ten Challenge.

Ilian Ertimirov had 12 points for the Wolfpack (5-0), who won their first four games by an average of 37 points.

Carl Landry had 18 points for Purdue (1-3), which in coach Gene Keady's farewell season is

off to its worst start since 1962-63.

**No. 18 Texas 86, Coppin St. 50:** Freshman Daniel Gibson scored 17 points for the Longhorns (4-1), who had 16 three-pointers, two short of the school record. Texas had nine threes in taking a 42-29 halftime lead.

Darryl Proctor had 11 points for the visiting Eagles (0-3). At least four Longhorns have reached double figures in all five games. Against the Eagles, it was Gibson, Kenny Taylor (14), Kenton Paulino (13) and Jason Klotz (11).

Michigan State was 11th, followed by Maryland, Pittsburgh, Washington, Mississippi State, North Carolina State, Louisville, Texas, Florida and Notre Dame.

Arizona was ranked teams were Arizona, Alabama, Iowa, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Virginia (4-0) beat then-No. 11 Arizona 78-60 on Nov. 21 and de-

# ACC ties record with seven Top 25 teams

BY JIM O'CONNELL  
The Associated Press

Virginia moved into The Associated Press' men's college basketball Top 25 Monday, giving the Atlantic Coast Conference a record-tying seven teams in the poll.

Wake Forest extended its lead at No. 1, the Cavaliers were tied for No. 2, and there were five other conference schools in between, matching the feat accomplished twice by the Big Ten and once by the ACC.

The Demon Deacons (5-0) used their preseason NTU championship to pull away from No. 2 Kansas (2-0). Wake Forest had 40 first-place votes and 1,737 points from the national media panel, while the Jayhawks were No. 1 on 18 ballots and had 1,678 points.

Last week, Wake Forest received fewer first-place votes, one fewer than Kansas, and had 19 more points.

The other ranked ACC teams were No. 4 Georgia Tech, No. 9 North Carolina, No. 10 Duke, No. 12 Maryland and No. 16 North Carolina State.

The Big Ten had seven teams ranked for one week in January 1993, and for four weeks in January and February 1999. The ACC did it for two weeks in December 1997.

No. 3 Syracuse and Georgia Tech switched places from last week.

The Orange (5-0) had four first-place votes, while Georgia Tech (3-0), which beat Illinois-Chicago 60-59 and Arkansas-Little Rock 79-54, was No. 1 on seven ballots.

Illinois, Oklahoma State, Connecticut and Kentucky held steady five through eight from last week. Illinois got one first-place vote, Oklahoma State had two.

North Carolina, which won the Maui Invitational, moved up from 11th, while Duke dropped one spot.

Michigan State was 11th, followed by Maryland, Pittsburgh, Washington, Mississippi State, North Carolina State, Louisville, Texas, Florida and Notre Dame.

Arizona was ranked teams were Arizona, Alabama, Iowa, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Virginia (4-0) beat then-No. 11 Arizona 78-60 on Nov. 21 and de-

## Power-packed conferences

Conference with the most teams ranked in the AP men's college basketball poll.

**Nov. 29, 2004** — ACC: No. 1 Wake Forest; No. 4 Georgia Tech; No. 9 North Carolina; No. 10 Duke; No. 12 Maryland; No. 16 North Carolina State; No. 24 Virginia.

**Feb. 8, 1997** — Big Ten: No. 8 Michigan State; No. 13 Ohio State; No. 15 Wisconsin; No. 17 Indiana; No. 19 Iowa; No. 21 Purdue; No. 22 Minnesota.

**Feb. 1, 1999** — Big Ten: No. 8 Michigan State; No. 11 Wisconsin; No. 14 Iowa; No. 15 Ohio State; No. 18 Purdue and Minnesota; No. 21 Indiana.

**Jan. 25, 1999** — Big Ten: No. 8 Michigan State; No. 12 Wisconsin; No. 14 Purdue; No. 15 Ohio State; No. 16 Iowa; No. 19 Minnesota; No. 20 Indiana.

**Jan. 14, 1998** — Big Ten: No. 12 Purdue; No. 13 Purdue; No. 14 Michigan State; No. 17 Wisconsin; No. 19 Minnesota; No. 21 Ohio State; No. 23 Indiana.

**Dec. 8, 1997** — ACC: No. 1 Duke; No. 2 North Carolina; No. 18 Florida State; No. 21 Clemson; No. 23 Maryland; No. 24 Georgia Tech; No. 25 Wake Forest.

**Dec. 1, 1997** — ACC: No. 1 Duke; No. 3 North Carolina; No. 17 Clemson; No. 19 Virginia State; No. 20 Virginia Tech; No. 21 Maryland; No. 24 Wake Forest.

**Jan. 15, 1997** — Big Ten: No. 2 Michigan; No. 6 Indiana; No. 13 Iowa; No. 17 Purdue; No. 18 Minnesota; No. 22 Ohio State; No. 23 Michigan State.

feated Appalachian State and Richmond this week. The Cavaliers were last ranked in December 2002.

Iowa (3-1) moved in at No. 23 off an impressive Maui Invitational. The Hawkeyes, who were ranked for one week in December 2003, played three Top 15 teams in Hawaii, beating Louisville and Texas before losing to North Carolina in the championship game.

Gonzaga and Memphis dropped out of the Top 25.

The Bulldogs (3-1) lost 89-72 to Illinois, ending a run of 22 consecutive poll appearances. Gonzaga was ranked every week last season, reaching a school-best No. 3 in the last two polls of the season.

Memphis (4-2) lost 84-61 to Maryland in the Hall of Fame Tip-off Classic. The Tigers, who were ranked at the end of last season, also lost to Syracuse in the final of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic.

Washington used its championship win in the Great Alaska Shootout to have the week's biggest jump. The Huskies, who beat Alabama 70-6 in the state game, moved from No. 22 to No. 14.

The biggest drop of the week was shared by Louisville and Wisconsin. The Cardinals fell from 12th to 17th after finishing fifth at Maui. Wisconsin dropped from 20th to 25th following a 75-61 loss at Pepperdine.

# Coach's Title IX case goes before U.S. Supreme Court

BY HOPE YEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A landmark gender equity law should protect women who report complaints of discrimination, the Supreme Court was told Tuesday as it heard arguments in the case of an Alabama coach fired when he protested the unequal treatment of his girls' high school basketball team.

"This is vital to promoting the purposes of the act," said government attorney Lawrence H. Garstein, referring to the Title IX law best known for promoting women's athletics.

The Bush administration is supporting the position of the coach, Roderick Jackson, who lost his job in 2001 after repeatedly asking the Birmingham Board of Education to provide his team a regulation-size gym with basketball rims that weren't bent — just like the boys' team had.

Jackson then sued to get his job back permanently along with lost wages under the Title IX law.

At issue is whether Congress intended to allow lawsuits by those who complain of gender bias — even if they are not direct victims — when it passed the 1972 law barring discrimination in any edu-

cational program receiving federal funds.

Justices appeared divided along ideological lines, with Ruth Bader Ginsburg and other liberal members expressing concern that barring suits like Jackson's would deter discrimination complaints.

Justice Antonin Scalia and his more conservative colleagues suggested Congress never intended that.

Kenneth L. Thomas, a lawyer representing the Birmingham school board, argued that the word "retaliation" is never mentioned in the statute. To allow whistleblowers, regardless of

their sex, to sue would open school districts to a wave of lawsuits that lawmakers never intended.

"Don't we have to consider congressional intent?" he asked.

Marcia Greenberger, Jackson's attorney, said on ABC's "Good Morning America" that he was trying to protect the rights of the girls and equal treatment with boys and should not have been pushed for speaking out.

"What's at stake in this case — which affects everyone around the country in the areas of athletics and in every type of educational arena — is, can somebody try to enforce Title IX by simply

speaking out and bringing to the attention of school officials violations of the law without being punished?" she said.

The lower courts in the case ruled against Jackson, noting that Title IX is silent on the matter. But other federal courts have reached an opposite conclusion in similar cases, ruling that coaches and teachers are better positioned to report discrimination than students.

Jackson has drawn wide interest, with support from a coalition of 180 civil rights groups including the NAACP, the American Civil Liberties Union and the American Federation of Teachers.



# Seahawks get inspiration from '89 49ers

BY TIM KORTE  
The Associated Press

KIRKLAND, Wash. — One day after his worst defeat in six seasons with the Seattle Seahawks, Mike Holmgren linked this year's team to the Super Bowl champion San Francisco 49ers of 1989.

No, the veteran coach hasn't lost his mind. Holmgren acknowledged there was no facet of last weekend's 36-9 loss to Buffalo where the Seahawks (6-5) played well. Offense, defense and special teams — "We played a horrible game in every area," he said Monday.

Ever resilient, Holmgren tried to bounce back. He told his players about another squad that opened the season with high expectations and found itself in similar circumstances, when he was quarterbacks coach in San Francisco in 1988.

"Actually the expectations were even higher," Holmgren recalled. The 49ers had just lost 9-3 to Oakland in Week 12 of 1988, dropping to 6-5. They opened 5-2, but lost three of the next four games. They regrouped and won four straight down the stretch, reaching the playoffs at 10-6.

Most know the rest of the story. Jerry Rice had a remarkable playoff run that included three touchdown catches in a playoff win over Minnesota, two more TDs in the NFC Championship against Chicago and an MVP performance in the Super Bowl.

There, Joe Montana's late 10-yard TD pass to John Elway sealed San Francisco's 20-16 victory over Cincinnati.

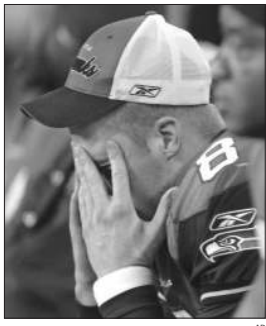
"Being in a situation like that was unusual for the Niners," said Rice, who now plays for Seattle. "We found ourselves 6-5 and we said, 'Hey, the coaches can curse, they can do whatever they want to do, they can work us harder, but it's up to the players to get the job done.'"

They committed to each other. We had five games to go and we did it. We went to the Super Bowl and won it."

Holmgren clearly stirred his team with his remarks.

The Seahawks on Monday hardly seemed as if they were handled by an opponent that had been winless on the road. There were smiles at practice, and players bounced from the practice facility to the locker room.

"We've had a really good day today," quarterback Matt Hasselbeck said. "I've got to say I'm very, very impressed with how Coach Holmgren handled it. He gave a talk to the team that was — I would call it inspirational."



Seahawks quarterback Matt Hasselbeck rubs his face as he sits on the bench in the final minutes of Seattle's loss to the Bills on Sunday.

"That was probably the best talk I've ever heard him give."

The Seahawks get an extra day to prepare for a Monday night game against Dallas (4-7).

"I love Monday Night Football," Rice said. "It's an opportunity for this team to show the world we haven't played our best football."

Holmgren doesn't plan to give his team an extra day off because Seattle has so many issues to address. The coach even declined to specify which was the most glaring problem when asked if he could change one thing.

"We just have to play better," he said. "We are our own worst enemy. We have prevented ourselves from taking the next step."

He listed five mistakes on special teams, saying one alone is "a big deal." He cited Buffalo's 60-percent conversion rate on third downs, Hasselbeck's inability to move the ball and Seattle's five dropped passes.

"I don't expect us to play like we played yesterday," Holmgren said. "We had a good week of practices. We're coaching the same way. We're emphasizing the things we think we need to emphasize, but it's not carrying over to the field."

The spending on how things go, the Seahawks remain in position to win the NFC West. Despite preseason projections that Seattle was a potential Super Bowl participant, the team goal was to win the division.

"We're running out of time," Holmgren said. "It's down to a five-game season."

# Meaningful game new for Chargers

BY BERNIE WILSON  
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — It's been a long time since the San Diego Chargers played as big a game as they'll have Sunday, when they host the Denver Broncos.

It got even bigger when the Oakland Raiders upset Denver in the snow on Sunday night, giving the surprising Chargers the AFC West lead.

The Chargers returned from their 34-31 win at Kansas City in time to watch on TV as Oakland's Langston Walker blocked Jason Elam's 43-yard field-goal attempt to preserve a 25-24 win over the Broncos.

So instead of San Diego and Denver being tied at 8-3, the high-scoring Chargers have a one-game lead as they journey for a rare playoff appearance.

The Chargers gave only slight praise to the division rival Raiders.

"Obviously that helps us out," quarterback Drew Brees said Monday. "It makes this game this week even bigger. Thanks to them for that, but obviously we have our work cut out for us this week."

Brees said he wasn't exactly cheering for Oakland.

"Nah, I mean, it's hard to root for the Raiders. You see the thing get blocked and you just kind of realize where that puts us now. I think we all realize the implications of the AFC West and playoffs and that sort of thing."

Since losing 23-13 at Denver on Sept. 26, San Diego has won seven of eight games, including five straight.

Brees has been the biggest reason for the turnaround from last season's 12-loss fliasco, throwing 21 touchdown passes and just three interceptions, compared to 15 interceptions and 11 TDs a year earlier. Brees threw for a ca-

reer-high 378 yards on Sunday and had two TD passes to tight end Antonio Gates.

Gates, a former basketball star at Kent State, has caught 11 TD passes, one short of the NFL record for tight ends, which is shared by four players, including Mike Ditka.

The Chargers haven't been to the playoffs since 1995, the year after their only Super Bowl appearance. They finished 9-7 to earn a wild-card berth, then were embarrassed at home by the Indianapolis Colts.

Their best record since then has been 8-8, accomplished three times. One of those years was 1999, when they finished one win short of the division title.

Otherwise, the Chargers' eight-year playoff drought has been littered with records such as the 1-15 debacle in 2000 and last season's NFL-worst 4-12.

In 2002, they were 8-4 after beating Denver at home but were already in a slide that would drop them to 8-8 in coach Matt Schottenheimer's first season.

Brees has no problem talking about the playoffs now, as opposed to two years ago, because he said there's a different attitude in the locker room.

"I know what happened two years ago," he said. "We were sitting here at 8-4 thinking, 'Well, if we just win half of our next four games, we're in the playoffs.' And we lose four straight. I don't think that was the attitude to have."

"As far as playoffs, that's for us, in our minds, it is a given," Brees said. "I think that we set out to do all along. Really, our goals go above and beyond just the playoffs."

The Chargers are certainly in unfamiliar territory.

"It's been a while," Brees said. "I don't know how long it's been since we were making a legitimate playoff run. We feel good about it."

# Portis' full share of carries has gotten lost in mix

BY JOSEPH WHITE  
The Associated Press

ASHBURN, Va. — The score is 946 to 945, and Clinton Portis is losing.

The Washington Redskins running back, conspicuous by his absence in another feeble effort by the offense, has fallen one yard behind the Denver Broncos' latest running-back-from-nowhere in the unofficial shake down the teams' blockbuster offseason trade.

Out in the Rockies, Reuben Droughns — who — has come on strong in the tradition of Terrell Davis, Olandis Gary, Mike Anderson and Portis as the Broncos challenge for a playoff berth.

Back east, Portis is getting marginalized in a struggling offense for a team going nowhere.

Portis had just six carries for 17 yards when the Redskins (3-8), the lowest-scoring team in the NFL, lost 16-7 to Pittsburgh on Sunday. He was on the bench for long chunks of time, including the entire 13-play drive that resulted in Washington's only touchdown. Backup Ladell Betts

gained 34 yards on eight carries, including a 26-yard scamper that marked the team's longest run from scrimmage since opening day.

"Certainly we'd love to have Clinton get his full share of carries," coach Joe Gibbs said Monday. "But the last two weeks we've been against very good defenses. Looking back on it: would you like to run the ball more? Yeah. Did we think we could run the ball down the field against Pittsburgh? No. We certainly want a mix in there, but it's my responsibility to get us more runs in there."

This is hardly what the Redskins envisioned when they traded four-time Pro Bowl cornerback Champ Bailey and a second-round draft pick for Portis, who rushed for 1,500 yards his first two NFL seasons.

Portis signed an eight-year, \$50.5 million contract and set out to prove that he was a top back in his own right and not just another fortunate product of a Broncos system that runs well-designed plays for interchangeable backs behind a well-heel-of-fensive line.

It is difficult to pinpoint where the blame lies. Gibbs relied heavily on Portis through the first half of the season, giving him a workload that was on pace to shatter team records in carries and yards. The Redskins are 3-0 when Portis rushes for 70 yards, 0-8 when he doesn't.

But Gibbs' focus on Portis, and the running game in general, has ebbed surprisingly in the past three weeks. Portis had just 17 carries against both Cincinnati and Philadelphia. On the season, he has 244 carries for 945 yards and a 3.9 average, while Droughns has surged to 202 carries for 946 yards and a 4.7 average.

The Redskins have an NFL-low two rushing touchdowns and none in the past seven games. They are on pace to rush for nearly the same number of yards (1,654) as last season's 5-11 team under pass-happy coach Steve Spurrier (1,653).

"Clinton, he's got to run the ball," receiver Rod Gardner said. "He's got to have him touch the ball. He's got to put up 100 yards a game. When we've got the ball, everybody knows what we're going to do."

Portis also is a victim of the Redskins' anemic passing game.

With no consistent downfield threat, defenses have stalked the line of scrimmage and plugged the holes immediately.

No back could play well in those conditions. Betts notably failed to get into the end zone Sunday in two tries from the 1-yard line.

"We're struggling in the running game no matter which back is back there," left tackle Chris Samuels said. "Anytime you can't complete passes downfield, they're going to stack the box with safeties and extra players. We can account for everybody up front and block those guys, but there's always going to be one or two extra guys."

Portis caught some flak from the coaching staff early in the season for implying that Gibbs' offense was too predictable, but he said all the right things when asked about his spotty playing time Sunday. He said he was hard standing on the sidelines, but that he was more upset with losing than not playing.

"I'm not in the Denver anymore," Portis said. "I'm in Washington. I have to find a way to be a key player in this system, the same way I was there."

# Browns resigns from last-place Browns

## Four-year tenure marked by nagging injuries, close losses

BY TOM WITHERS  
The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Cleveland Browns coach Butch Davis resigned under pressure Tuesday, leaving a last-place team with five games left in a sinking season filled with close losses and costly injuries.

The Browns dropped their fifth straight game on Sunday, 58-48 at Cincinnati. The team went 24-36 and made the playoffs just once in Davis' four seasons as head coach.

Davis left with three years remaining on a contract worth about \$12 million. It was not immediately clear if he agreed to a buyout.

Browns President John Collins was to speak at an afternoon news conference, team spokeswoman Lisa Levine said.

Offensive coordinator Terry Robiskie or defensive coordinator Dave Campo was expected to take over as interim coach for the Browns, who host the Super Bowl championship game on Sunday.

Campo coached the Dallas Cowboys for three seasons before being fired after the 2002 season. Robiskie was Washington's interim coach for three games in 2000.

Pressure had been mounting on Davis for weeks as the Browns' season crumbled with a score of injuries to key players and a handful of agonizing losses. Things got so

difficult for Davis and his family last week that he sent his wife and son to Florida to avoid all the attention.

The Browns, who are 3-8 this year and just 8-19 since the end of the 2002 season, have 13 players on injured reserve, including six starters. They continually came up short in tight games during Davis' tenure, and this season was no different: The team lost three games by a total of 13 points.

In a statement, Davis said "intense pressure and scrutiny" made the move necessary.

"I accept responsibility for the mistakes that we have made," Davis said, "but it was my and my staff's intention to do everything we could to lay the foundation and build a team that could win a Super Bowl. I hope that some of my decisions we have made will be a part of a brighter future for the Browns organization."

"My future is clear for the moment. I have no immediate plans to stay in coaching."

Amid speculation last week that Davis was about to be fired, Collins said the Browns would remain in place for the rest of the season — unless he resigned.

Davis, who helped restore the University of Miami's American dream all about sports in 1991, could be a candidate for the job opening at Florida.

In January, Browns owner Randy Lerner



**Butch Davis restored the University of Miami's winning tradition, but his tenure in Cleveland was marked by hard-luck losses.**

er gave the 53-year-old Davis a two-year contract extension through 2007 and the added title of executive vice president, despite the club's 5-11 record in 2003.

Lerner felt pressured to keep Davis, thinking the coach was being courted by several college programs.

Davis took the Browns to the playoffs in 2002, their only postseason appearance since returning to the NFL in 1999. But the team endured more than its share of hard-luck losses; sustained an array of costly injuries; underwent a roster-cleaning salary-cap purge in 2003 and a year-long quarterback controversy last season; and mourned the death of owner Al Lerner.

**"My future is clear for the moment. I have no immediate plans to stay in coaching."**

**Butch Davis**

Davis was on Cleveland's sideline when Browns fans rioted by throwing thousands of bottles on the field in 2001 and when line-backer Dwayne Rudd threw his helmet in the 2002 opening, costing the Browns a victory.

On Monday, Davis recounted some of those moments.

"In four years," he said, "I have seen some of the most bizarre things."

When he joined the Browns in 2001, Davis promised to lead Cleveland to the Super Bowl. But after a tenure marked by some poor drafting, he leaves far short of that goal, and the team doesn't seem any closer to a title than when Davis arrived.

Davis had total control of all football decisions with Cleveland. His power inside the organization grew when Dwight Clark, the team's director of football operations, resigned in 2002.

Some felt Davis pushed Clark out the door. After Cleveland's disappointing 2003 season, Lerner hired former Green Bay general manager Ron Wolf to assist Davis in assessing the team's roster and preparing for drafts. But Wolf, who rebuilt the Packers into Super Bowl champions, quit after just a few months.

Davis was expected to hire a general manager this winter to work with Cleveland's new coach.

# Jets' Pennington says he's ready to play this week

The Associated Press

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — Chad Pennington sounds optimistic about his chances of returning to the New York Jets this week.

Pennington, who has missed the past three weeks with a strained right rotor cuff, is questionable for the game Sunday against Houston. He will share snaps with Quincy Carter during practice this week before determining whether he can play.

"I always said I'm going to come back when I feel I can help my team and not hurt my team," Pennington said Monday. "I feel that way. I feel like I can play well."

Whether coach Herman Edwards agrees can be the deciding factor. Pennington started throwing last Nov. 7 at Buffalo at the end of a scramble.

Before a 13-3 win over Arizona on Sunday, he threw 50 passes with full velocity, ranging from short ones to 40-45 yarders.

There has been no swelling in his shoulder and no setbacks, and Pennington does not know whether sitting out an additional week will be beneficial to what he is able to do.

"Does a week really make a difference?" Pennington said. "That's the question. Functional-wise and my shoulder, and the type of movement that it has to make, I don't think a week makes a difference. Obviously a week makes a difference if you don't get hit, but that's not where we are right now. This is football, and you do play hurt."

## Cardinals to start rookie QB Navarre

TEMPE, Ariz. — The Arizona Cardinals are turning to yet another quarterback, this time rookie John Navarre.

## NFL briefs

The seventh-round draft pick from Michigan, who never has taken a snap in an NFL regular-season game, will make his debut Sunday when the Cardinals visit Detroit.

Coch Dennis Green announced the move Monday, benching Shaun King after two starts and going with Navarre over Josh McCown, who had the job for the first nine games.

"Isn't that the American dream all about opportunity? If one guy hasn't worked out and another guy hasn't worked out, why shouldn't the other guy get a chance? And I've got a lot of confidence in him. I think he will do fine."

Green said McCown would be the backup, with King demoted to third string after the Cardinals (4-7) scored just 13 points in his two starts.

"Quick look? Yeah," Green said. "Tough business, and you don't have to apologize for it being a tough business."

## Browns lose Andra Davis for season

BEREA, Ohio — Linebacker Andra Davis will miss the remainder of the season after tearing a ligament in his left knee against the Bengals.

The Browns will place Davis on the injured reserve list, making him the 13th player on it during a season of costly injuries for Cleveland (3-8), which has lost five straight games.

Davis tore the medial collateral ligament in his left knee in the third quarter when Bengals tight end Tony Stewart rolled up on his leg. The injury is to the same knee that Davis had repaired when he played at Florida.

## Smith to carry Vikings' load

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Ontario Smith, not former Pro Bowler Michael Bennett, will be Minnesota's starting running back for now.

"We'll try to define a role for Mike," coach Mike Tice said, "but I think right now we'll try to ride Ontario and see how he progresses down the stretch."

Smith, in his second year out of Oregon, racked up 421 combined yards in the Vikings' first three games before serving a four-game suspension for violating the NFL's substance-abuse rules. He had a season-high 20 carries for 72 yards in Sunday's 27-16 win over Jacksonville.

Bennett, a starter in four of the Vikings' previous five games, was in for a handful of plays Sunday and didn't carry the ball. He has gained just 89 yards on 27 carries since returning from a sprained neck Oct. 24.

After an ankle sprain, rookie Mewelde Moore also could be back in uniform this week in Chicago, though he likely would be limited to kick returns.

## Henry might not have broken leg

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. — Travis Henry might not have broken a bone in his right leg, as first feared, according to coach Mike Mularkey. The team is conducting further tests on the running back and should have a more definitive diagnosis when the Bills (5-6) return to practice Wednesday.

Henry, the backup to Willis McGahee, was hurt four plays into the team's opening drive in a 38-9 win at Seattle on Sunday.

Linebacker Isaiah Kacyvensky tackled Henry and rolled up on his leg following a 5-yard reception.

Clutching the back of his leg, Henry lay on the field for several minutes before needing help to limp to the sideline, where he was carried to a locker room.

It was the same leg Henry hurt in Week 11 last season, a hairline break to a bone just above his ankle. Henry did miss a game because of that injury, and went on to his second consecutive 1,300-yard rushing season.

## More tests for Bengals RB Perry

CINCINNATI — Running back Chris Perry will get more medical tests this week for abdominal pain. Perry, the 26th overall pick out of Michigan, has appeared in only two games and carried the ball twice for 1 yard. He also has three catches for 35 yards.

"Chris had a good workout yesterday before the game and felt good," Lewis said Monday. "We're going to do some other scans and tests on him over the next two days to see if there's anything else that we can find that's hindering him. He still has some discomfort at times."

The Bengals (5-6) were hoping to use Perry as a complement to Rudi Johnson, who topped 1,000 yards for the season on Sunday.

Instead, Perry hasn't been able to make it onto the field.

He strained a hamstring in the final pre-season game and didn't appear in the first three games. He made his debut in Pittsburgh on Oct. 3, catching two passes for 24 yards. A week later in Cleveland, he caught one pass for 9 yards and carried twice for 1 yard.

During practice the next week, Perry aggravated some abdominal muscles during practice. He hasn't played since then.



## SPORTS



Celtics paint town green  
in Doc Rivers' return  
to Orlando, Page 25

# Notre Dame fires Willingham

## School's first black coach failed to restore glory

BY TOM COYNE  
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Coach Tyrone Willingham was fired by Notre Dame on Tuesday after three seasons in which he failed to return one of the nation's most storied football programs to prominence.

Willingham had a record of 21-15, including 6-5 this season. The Fighting Irish lost 41-10 to No. 1 Southern California on Saturday.

It was not immediately clear whether Willingham would coach the team at the Insight Bowl on Dec. 28. Notre Dame accepted the invitation to the game on Sunday.

Athletic director Kevin White scheduled a news conference for later Tuesday.

Willingham's firing comes after a season in which the Irish pulled off upset victories over Michigan and at Tennessee, but were also blown out by USC and Purdue.

Notre Dame's loss to top-ranked USC on Saturday marked the fifth time the Irish lost by 31 points or more under Willingham — three of the losses coming to the Trojans. By comparison, former coach Bob Davie's team had just one such loss. Lou Holtz and Dan Devine had none.

Notre Dame hired Willingham, the first black head coach in any sport for the Irish, away from Stanford to replace George O'Leary, the former Georgia Tech coach who resigned five days after taking the job because he lied about his academic and athletic achievements on his resume.

In his first season, Willingham had many fans recalling Notre Dame's glory days, taking over a losing squad and turning things around immediately. The Irish won eight straight to start the season before finishing 10-3 and going to the Gator Bowl.

But during his second year, the Irish fell

to 5-7, with four of their losses coming by 26 points or more. It was Notre Dame's third losing record in five seasons, the Irish's worst stretch in 115 years of football.

Notre Dame has won eight AP college football national championships, more than any other school. The last was in 1988 under Holtz. Players from the school have won the Heisman Trophy seven times, also the most in college football.

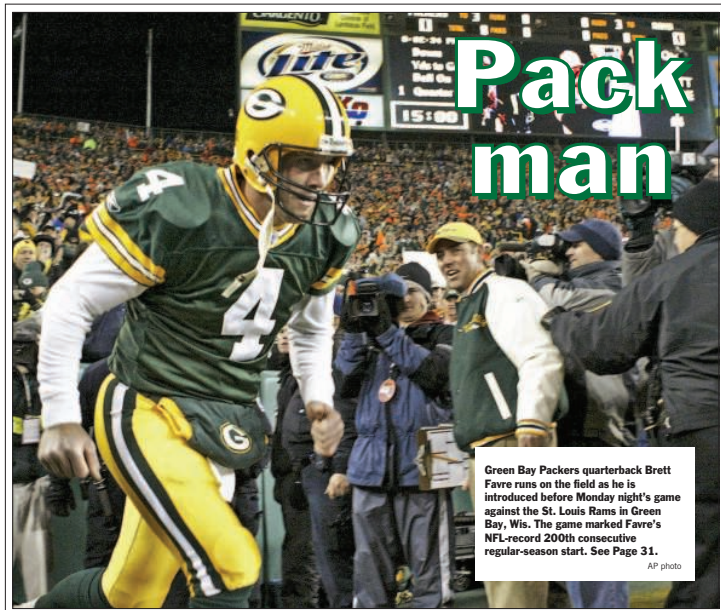
The Irish haven't won a bowl game since ending the 1993 season ranked No. 2 after beating No. 7 Texas 24-21 in the Cotton Bowl.

Since then the Irish have lost six straight postseason games.

With Tony Samuel fired by New Mexico State and Fitz Hill resigning from San Jose State last week, there are now only two black head coaches in Division I-A — Karl Dorrell at UCLA and Sylvester Croom at Mississippi State.



Tyrone Willingham had a 21-15 in three seasons as Notre Dame's football coach, including 6-5 this season.



# Pack man

Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre runs on the field as he is introduced before Monday night's game against the St. Louis Rams in Green Bay, Wis. The game marked Favre's NFL-record 200th consecutive regular-season start. See Page 31.

AP photo



**Browns coach Davis resigns under pressure**

Page 30



**No. 2 Kansas overpowers Nevada**

Page 28

ACC title tilt a remix of Big East's biggest hits Page 27